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Afghanistan

The UN plan for tranferring power to a 15-member council of neutral Afghans has been "overtaken by events," a spokesman for the Mas'ud-led Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction asserted to AFP. Meanwhile, UN negotiator Benon Sevan said he was "pessimistic" about reaching a speedy accord between rival mojahedin factions because "no one is prepared to make a compromise," the news agency noted separately.

Iran

Tehran will back "any government in Kabul that is endorsed by the Afghan Muslim people," Foreign Minister Velayati stated, according to IRNA. In an interview with Tehran TV, Velayati praised the "leadership" of mojahedin leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, adding that the Jam'iyat-e Eslami leader has shown "proper adroitness and wisdom." Velayati said he endorses Mas'ud and "anyone else who cares for the people of Afghanistan."

Palestinian Affairs

Members of the peace talks delegation arrived in Amman to coordinate stands with their Jordanian counterparts in prepararation for the upcoming Washington negotiations, and both sides welcomed the choice of Rome as the venue for the sixth round of bilateral talks, Paris Radio Monte Carlo reported. PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd-Rabbuh said the United States should play a stronger role in stemming Israeli "intransigence," Al-RA'Y reported.

India

Security in New Delhi was increased after a bomb explosion at a centrally located hotel injured 14 people, among them 12 foreigners, Delhi radio reported. Police say the explosion was triggered by a timing device.

Mauritania

The government issued a joint communique with Senegal announcing the resumption of full diplomatic relations after the "painful events" of 1989, Nouakchott radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'New' al-Qadhdhafi Proposals to Mubarak Revealed

JN2304181892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources have revealed to our radio that the new proposals presented by [Libyan] Leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi to [Egyptian] President Husni Mubarak stipulate placing the two Libyans accused in the Lockerbie affair at the disposal of a U.S.-French-British judicial team on neutral territory, with the participation of a Libyan judicial team.

The sources added that the new Libyan ideas propose that an international judicial team formed by the United Nations, or a team from a group of states to be agreed upon, supervise the investigations.

The Libyan proposals stress the need for the international supervisory team to attend all stages of the investigation conducted by the Western team, but without granting them the right to interfere in the investigation process.

Concerning the Libyan team, the proposed ideas note that in case it lodges a protest against some measures adopted by the Western team, the international supervisory team will then have the right to discuss this protest and adopt the necessary measures to ensure the integrity and continuation of the investigation. The Libyan proposals left the task of announcing the results of the investigation to the international team.

The sources also noted that Cairo might be the neutral territory proposed as a possible site for the investigation to take place.

Egyptian, Syrian, Libyan Leaders Discuss Embargo

NC2304080692 Paris AFP in English 0740 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Doha, April 23 (AFP) - Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will meet later Thursday [23 April] in Egypt with the presidents of Syria and Egypt to discuss the U.N. embargo imposed on Tripoli over its refusal to surrender two suspects in the Lockerbie airliner bombing, the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH reported here.

Al-Qadhdhafi will meet Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and Husni Mubarak of Egypt at Sidi Barrani, the coastal town near Libya where the Egyptian and Libyan leaders held talks Tuesday, the paper said, quoting informed diplomatic sources.

In an interview published Thursday by the official Chinese news agency XINHUA, al-Qadhdhafi said he had proposed in his meeting with Mubarak having the two suspects tried in Cairo.

They are wanted for trial in the United States or Scotland for the 1988 mid-air bombing of a Pan American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland which killed 270 people.

AL-RAYAH said the three leaders would examine "the current Arab position regarding international sanctions against Libya," notably a U.N. Security Council air traffic and arms embargo that has been in effect since April 15.

The measure was imposed after Tripoli refused to hand over the two men.

After three hours of talks Tuesday in Sidi Barrani, Mubarak said there was "a ray of hope" for ending Tripoli's diplomatic confrontation with the West.

AL-RAYAH said al-Asad would inform al-Qadhdhafi and Mubarak of the results of his mission to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, which is to end Thursday. Syrian press reports hinted that al-Asad had been seeking support for Libya.

Syria's Khaddam Denies Report on Tripartite Summit

NC2304183592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has denied an AL-RAYAH report today that the Egyptian, Syrian, and Libyan leaders will hold a mini-summit soon.

Justice Ministers on Libya, Regional Issues

NC2304054592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Arab justice ministers' council has stressed its desire to contain the Libyan-Western crisis and its endeavors to find a peaceful solution according to the bases and principles of international law.

In a statement issued at the end of its eighth session at Arab League Headquarters this evening, the council reiterated its desire for preserving the sovereignty of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The council voiced its support for the Palestinian people's just rights and urged the world public to exercise the utmost pressure to halt the continuous building of Israeli settlements whether in the occupied Palestinian territories or the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

In its statement, the council affirmed its support for the way the Palestinians are handling the peace process. The council condemned Israel's persistent occupation of southern Lebanon and its disregard of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The Arab justice ministers' council urged the world's nations to use all means to ensure implementation of this resolution.

The council voiced its concern over the deteriorating situation in fraternal Somalia. It urged all the Somali factions to end the confrontation and engage in dialogue on achieving an accord which will help bring humanitarian aid to Somalia.

Palestinian Affairs

Peace Talks Delegation Members Arrive in Amman

To Coordinate Stands With Jordan

JN2304075692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Apr 92 pp 1, 23

[Excerpt] Amman-Tunis-AL-RA'Y-news agencies—In preparation for the fifth round of Middle East peace talks with Israel scheduled to begin in Washington on Monday, a number of senior Palestinian officials arrived in Amman yesterday, while others will arrive today.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and 'Abdallah Hurani, members of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived yesterday from Tunis.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation; and a number of delegation members, including Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, Samih Kan'an, Ilyas Frayj, Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, Dr. Su'ad al-'Amiri, Dr. Nabil Qassis, and Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah, will arrive today from occupied Palestine.

Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, Dr. Taysir al-'Aruri, Dr. Anis al-Qasim, and Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, who are currently in Amman, will join the delegation.

Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad, and Jabr Fiddah, who are in Cairo, as well as Mustafa al-Natshah, who is in Rome, will join the delegation in Washington before Monday.

The Palestinian People's Party has neither confirmed nor denied that it will participate in the upcoming round of talks. Bashir al-Barghuthi, Palestinian People's Party secretary general, told AL- RA'Y yesterday morning that there have been no new developments.

Responsible Palestinian sources have emphasized that the Palestinian officials will meet this afternoon with senior Jordanian officials to coordinate positions and negotiate strategies between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides within the joint delegation.

The sources also said that the Palestinian delegation will leave in two groups, on Friday and Saturday.

Responsible Palestinian sources, who possess a copy of the Palestinian file on the upcoming round of talks, have emphasized that the Americans have informed Arab parties that this round of talks with Israel will achieve progress on substantial issues. [passage omitted]

Consultations Begin 23 Apr

JN2304185792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Randah Habib report from Amman]

[Text] Consultations between members of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the peace negotiations began in Amman today to set up a joint plan prior to the resumption of bilateral talks in Washington on Monday [27 April].

Jordan and the Palestinians have welcomed the choice of Rome as a venue for holding the sixth round of bilateral talks. This came in statements made by 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department and who is currently in Amman.

'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized the commitment of the Palestinians and the concerned Arab states to resuming the peace process. He noted that the suspension of participation at this stage would serve only the extremist forces inside Israel.

The two delegations are scheduled to leave for Washington the day after tomorrow, Saturday, to participate in the fifth round of negotiations, which will be the last in the U.S. capital.

A Palestinian source said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman within the next 48 hours to hold talks with Jordanian officials on the eve of the next round of Arab-Israeli talks.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Urges U.S. Role

JN2404072792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Apr 92 pp 1, 17

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has told AL-RA'Y that the PLO and Jordan fully agree on the need to continue work so that the next round of peace talks will discuss substantive issues. This especially includes the arrangements for the transitional period during which authority will be handed over to the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, including authority over territorial, water, and legislative rights.

The transitional arrangements, he added, must be preceded by preparatory arrangements. These include an immediate halt to settlement activity, respect for Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories in accordance with international agreements, and the securing of the appropriate conditions to hold political and legislative elections to produce a Palestinian legislative council that will have full authority.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: We do not expect a positive stand by Shamir's delegation, especially in light of Shamir's latest assertions that the road is closed.

He added: Responsibility here lies with the United States. It should play a role to stop Israel's intransigence if it wants the next round of talks to succeed and make progress. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi on Palestinian Demands

JN2304180992 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Amman, 23 Apr (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met today with the head and members

of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, in the presence of some members of the Jordanian delegation.

During the meeting opinions were exchanged on the upcoming round of negotiations scheduled to begin in Washington on 27 April, and on the issues to be raised during this round in light of the Jordanian and Palestinian determination to hold serious talks, so as to achieve substantial, tangible progress in line with the time frame set by the two cosponsors of the peace process.

Following the meeting Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, told reporters that the Palestinian delegation still adheres to the position that it adopted during the previous round of negotiations concerning the way it views the transitional phase.

He added: We are leaving for the next round in the hope that the Israelis will realize that their position on this issue conflicts with the principles of the peace process. He also expressed hope that the Israelis will change their stand and bring it in line with the principle of achieving peace.

Answering a question regarding the Israeli proposal to hold municipal elections instead of general elections in the occupied territories, he said that this proposal undermines the credibility of the peace process because municipal issues are part of the negotiations. He asserted, moreover, that this proposal aims at undermining the credibility of the peace process and disrupting the course of negotiations.

Commenting on the Israeli prime minister's recent statements on the occupied territories, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that such statements could destroy the peace process.

'Abd-al-Shafi Assesses Israeli Policy

JN2304193992 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met with Palestinian peace negotiators who arrived in Amman today en route to Washington for a new round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian delegation arrived in Amman from the Israeli-occupied territories earlier in the day. Palestinian chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi told the "News at Ten" that the Israelis should change their negotiating policy:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] We shall continue to maintain our vision of the interim self-government arrangement. However, I mean, within this context, our desire to be as flexible as possible, not to raise any obstacles. But certainly we are not going to bargain on what we consider to be our basic and innate right. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Shafi Scores Shamir Remark on Territories

NC2204185492 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] In a statement to MBC in reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's extremist statement, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] We denounce and protest this Israeli position, which in itself defies the law, human rights, and the principles of the peace process outlined in Security Council Resolution 242. There is no doubt that such statements strip the peace process of its meaning and significance and destroy its credibility. [end recording]

Editorial Calls For U.S. 'Pressure' on Israel

TA2204154192 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Absent Pressure"]

[Text] Only a few days before the start of the fifth round of bilateral negotiations in Washington, the United States declared yesterday that it will not apply any pressure on Israel's leaders to force them to participate in the multilateral talks to be resumed next month and in which Palestinians from the diaspora are expected to take part.

With this step the U.S. Administration is again retreating from its commitments to the parties participating in the peace process. It had affirmed to the Palestinians the possibility of having diaspora Palestinians participate in the second round of the multilateral talks, particularly on the refugee committee in Ottawa and on the development and economics committee in Brussels.

This U.S. retreat will support Israeli intransigence and will tempt Israel's leaders to continue barricading themselves behind their intransigent positions, which rule out any concessions—not only in the multilateral talks but also in the bilateral negotiations. Those negotiations have now reached the stage of discussing substantive issues, after Israel, in the four previous rounds, wasted time on procedural matters to divert attention from substantive issues and to bring the Israeli elections closer. With the approach of elections, Israel will place the entire issue in the deep freeze and hold it hostage to its whims.

The U.S. stand, which is biased in favor of Israeli policies, arouses questions and raises numerous doubts about the success of the fifth round of bilateral negotiations, which will begin in a few days. The absence of U.S. pressure and the declaration that the United States is unwilling to apply any pressure—at a time when the United States is exerting strong pressure on Iraq and Libya on the grounds that they are not abiding by international legitimacy—strip the U.S. Administration of the role of a neutral mediator. Such a role requires a

minimal disagreement with Israel, which refuses to comply with the international will.

If the strategic relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv is inviolable despite Israel's continued defiance of the international consensus and despite its practices against the residents of the occupied territories, we would like to emphasize to the United States that its concern for the success of the peace process will not be realized without pressuring Israel. Only pressure can force Israel to respond to the requirements of peace and bring about the success of the peace process.

PLO Asserts Neutrality in Israeli Elections

TA2204192692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The PLO will not get involved in Israel's election campaign, nor will it support any party, Jewish or Arab. This was stated by Muhammad Subayh, spokesman for the Palestine National Council, in an exclusive interview with the Israeli Arab weekly AL-NAD'WAH, which is published in Jerusalem.

Contrary to the report published last week by the Paris-based newspaper LE CANARD ENCHAINE, Subayh denied that the PLO is hoping for a Labor victory in the elections. Yitzhaq Rabin is not our Prince Charming, he said.

People's Party Urges Limit to Strikes

TA2304192092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The People's Party in the territories today issued a statement in which it called on the residents to confine strikes to the ninth of every month and to avoid random strikes that burden the masses and do not have any real effect.

Our correspondent reports that there is an argument between the supporters and activists of the major political currents over the scope of commercial strikes and the effect of strikes on the economic situation in the territories. Our correspondent adds that merchants in Nabulus and Hebron are particularly suffering from the continuous strikes and are demanding equal treatment with the merchants in East Jerusalem with regard to businesses' hours of opening until late in the day.

Similar statements signed by Fatah had been distributed earlier. They also called for limiting strikes to one day a month.

Algeria

FFS Leader Criticizes Boudiaf Call for Rally

LD2304205492 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Reactions are coming in following the speech yesterday by President Boudiaf [title as heard] on the establishment of the National Consultative Council. I remind you that the Algerian leader urged his compatriots in particular to join a political rally, a sort of presidential party—a vector, according to him—of radical change. Here is what Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], thinks of it. In his opinion things are still a long way from a true dialogue:

[Begin Ait Ahmed recording] Boudiaf has completely turned his back on representative political groups. His speech was very clear on this point; he does not want a dialogue with the political groups, and everyone noted that the presence of certain members—indeed of candidates—of small parties which lost in the elections is evidence that he is counting on these small parties to create his big rally.

We note in passing that at this moment, as the FFS is suffering the effects of a veritable policy of suffocation—because it has no possibility of carrying out its activities—one has to note that the government, by means of the state and in the name of the state, is in the process of creating a rally which perhaps does not fall within the single-party category. It does, however, strongly resemble movements created by the state which remind us of the partisan state. [end recording]

These statements were recorded by Farida Ayari. Hocine Ait Ahmed also harshly criticized the Consultative Council established yesterday.

Ministry Bans Unauthorized Imams From Mosques

LD2004175992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] The Ministry of Religious Affairs issued a statement today reiterating its determination not to allow anybody to preach, give sermons, lead prayers, or call for prayers at mosques without its authorization. The statement pointed out that any infringement whatsoever of this warning will lead to prosecution.

The same statement reiterated that no one is allowed to make the mosque a shelter for the night for his family. The ministry furthermore does not allow the keys for the maqsurah [box or stall in a mosque near the mihrab where imams usually stay between prayers] to be handed over to anyone except employees of the Ministry of Religious Affairs who are in charge of the mosque, the statement added.

According to the same statement the ministry has instructed its supervisors to keep an eye on the mosques and to look after their sanctity.

World Bank To Grant Loans Worth $400 Million

LD2404085992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The World Bank will grant two loans to Algeria totaling between $400 million and $600 million. This was announced at the end of his visit to our country today by Peter Bottelier, director of the Middle East and Maghreb Department of this financial organization.

The two loans will be devoted particularly to financing the revival of the housing and building sectors and to backing the liberalization program of domestic and foreign trade, as well as social security related to fiscal reform.

Prime Minister Ghozali Visits Spain

WA2404125292

For reportage on the visit to Spain by Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, including his talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 24 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Correction to Boudiaf Speech to Council

LD2404085592

The following correction pertains to the item subheadlined "Boudiaf Speech" published in the 23 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 7:

Column one, last paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...to show-like or demagogic operations or to... (changing "pedagogic" to "demagogic")

Egypt

Libya Sanctions Represent 'Diktat' on Arabs

NC2304113192 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, April 23 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities, while urging accommodation on Libya in its standoff with the West over the Lockerbie bombing, fear that the United States could use the affair to impose its will on the Arab world.

"The Libyan issue is like a ball of yarn: it can unravel when even a single thread is pulled," commented a senior official here.

He warned that while U.N. sanctions on Tripoli are currently limited to an air traffic and arms embargo, they could—under U.S. pressure—be broadened and made harsher.

The sanctions took effect April 15 after Libya refused to extradite two of its nationals to either the United States or Britain, where they stand accused in the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. The attack killed 270 people.

The Egyptian official argued that there is now a tendency in the West to "reorganize the Arab world" according to Western, notably American, preferences.

But in the aftermath of the cold war, with no power to serve as a counterweight to the United States, Egypt has appealed to Libya to show restraint and to undertake radical changes in its political administration.

Libyan opposition sources here have said Egyptian-arranged informal contacts took place in a European country last November between U.S. and Libyan officials.

But the encounters proved fruitless, as Libya reportedly rejected U.S. demands that it hold internationally-supervised free elections in which opposition leaders now in exile would take part.

In the Lockerbie affair, Egypt has been made uncomfortable by its inability to influence the United States, for whom it has been a faithful ally in the Middle East for more than a decade.

In response to Washington's rejection of any compromise put forward by Cairo, the official press here has this week denounced what it calls a double-dealing U.S. foreign policy that imposes demands on the Arabs while sparing Israel.

"All Arabs, including Egyptians, believe the sanctions against Libya reflect a diktat made possible by the new balance of forces in the world, where a single power is free to act at will," said the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR, considered close to President Husni Mubarak.

"The U.N. decisions, in the name of international law, sanction an Arab country simply on allegations. But the international community is incapable of forcing Israel to apply United Nations resolutions."

The paper described the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as terrorism, which could be the cause "of 'counter-terrorism' aimed at injustice, hypocrisy and silence stemming from complicity."

Egyptian leaders are anxious to avoid a U.S.-led military attack on Libya, which would leave them in an agonizing dilemma.

The Egyptian Government would be faced with either submitting to the United States, thereby inviting widespread domestic revulsion, or standing up to Washington—and in so doing jeopardizing critical diplomatic and economic ties.

Cairo Taking 'Honorable Stand' on Libyan Crisis

NC2404070792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2122 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has said that Egypt's honorable stand on the Libyan-Western crisis confirms beyond a doubt Egypt's pan-Arab obligations toward its Arab brothers.

It added that this stand is primarily based on the permanent link between pan-Arab and Egyptian national interests on the grounds that a strong and firm Egypt is, by itself, a source of strength for any Arab and that this gives Egypt room to move and contact various parties to overcome this crisis.

In its editorial in Friday's edition, the paper says: Undoubtedly, Egypt's commitment to international legitimacy regardless of our opinion on this or that Security Council resolution represents part of Egypt's strength and firmness. We cannot defy international legitimacy and then find an opportunity to contact and address relevant international parties, asking them to be reasonable and adhere to the international justice criteria. Like all other countries, we should first be committed to the international community's resolutions and then (?move) in the right direction.

The paper notes that those who followed President Husni Mubarak's statements after his latest meeting with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in Sidi Barrani have realized one of the most important aspects of Egypt's stand on this Libyan crisis—not to be despondent or lose hope for the possibility of reaching a solution.

The paper says that although Egypt believes the crisis is no longer easy now that the Security Council resolutions have been issued and sanctions have been put in force, this should not in any way affect Egypt's conviction that nothing is impossible, if the intentions are good, through a sound and realistic perspective in light of the international situation and its changes.

Libyan Official Comments on Trade With Cairo

NC2304122292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad al-Hijazi, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Integration With Egypt, has stated that Libya has already fulfilled its share of the barter deal recently signed with Egypt.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent, al-Hijazi added that the Egyptian side had confirmed that it shipped the operational machinery needed for Libyan industrial firms in accordance with the terms of the relevant contracts and letters of credit. The two sides also agreed to export products of the Misratah iron and steel factory to Egyptian markets.

Concerning industrial integration between Egypt and Libya, al-Hijazi added that a joint technical committee from the two countries will meet before the end of April in Cairo to coordinate industrial development plans. He noted that Libya had invited the Egyptian side to take part in setting up an automobile project in Libya. Egypt and Libya have agreed to form a joint committee for developing and integrating light industries in the two countries and to exchange specialized expertise in all fields of industry, he added. Al-Hijazi pointed out that Egypt had agreed to extend technical advice for an aluminum casting project to be implemented in Libya.

On trade between Egypt and Libya, al-Hijazi pointed out that there is increasing progress in trade and commodity exchange between the two countries. He noted that licenses granted for imports from Egypt during the fiscal year 1991/92 amount to $18.7 million. He noted in this respect the emphasis placed on the need to tighten control on commodities and for goods to conform to technical and health specifications to maintain the products' standards and protect consumers' rights in both countries. The Libyan official added that agricultural development projects amounting to $220 million have been concluded between the two countries. The joint committee for settlement of Egyptians in Libya held several meetings, and paid field visits to the work sites, he added.

U.S. Training 500 Libyans for 'Criminal Plot'

NC2404055892 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 20 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] The United States has begun to implement its criminal plot to bring down the ruling Libyan regime and to appoint an agent government loyal to the United States and Israel.

Knowledgeable diplomatic sources have disclosed to MISR AL-FATAH that information reached an important Arab capital indicating that U.S. intelligence has trained around 500 Libyan opposition members belonging to this agency [as published] and 1,000 African mercenaries to overthrow the Libyan regime. The sources said the training took place in an African country neighboring Libya.

The sources pointed out that the new plan aims to overthrow the ruling regime, to capture or kill Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, and to appoint new Libyan elements to rule the country who will allow the return of U.S. and British bases to Libya, will sign a direct peace accord with Israel, and will establish broad economic, political, and military cooperation with the Zionist entity.

According to the plan, these agents will be in charge of the plot and will secure all branches of the African mercenaries who will participate in the implementation of the operation. The agents will carry newly manufactured light weapons. The U.S. weapons will be used by U.S. troops should the U.S. and British defense departments decide that there is difficulty in carrying out the task.

According to diplomatic information from Washington, these agents completed strenuous training last month and are qualified to carry out this operation as soon as possible. The reports say the operation is likely to be implemented in the next few days.

The confrontation between Libya and the United States and other Western countries intensified over the past few days following the application of air, military, and diplomatic embargo resolutions against Libya.

It has been learned that, after the application of the resolution, the U.S. Administration forwarded a memorandum to the Security Council demanding that Resolution 748 on the imposition of sanctions against Libya include a land embargo. The U.S. memorandum affirmed that suitable compensations for Egypt, Tunisia, and other Maghreb countries could be estimated in the event these countries endorse a land embargo against Libya and do not have economic dealings with it.

The U.S. memorandum noted that if the borders between Egypt and Libya and between Tunisia and Libya remain open, this will enable economic ties between Libya and a great number of countries to continue and that these countries will export and import their products across the Egyptian and Tunisian territories. The memorandum demanded that land route exits be secured and that all these routes be under direct U.S. supervision. The memorandum was skeptical of a serious implementation of the resolution if any Arab country supervises these exits.

The memorandum recommended that the Egyptian and Tunisian Governments must agree to set up these posts inside the two countries' borders, which are to be supervised by the United States, Britain, and France to guard against any likely economic violations by any country. The memorandum asserted that U.S. satellites will assist these posts through the information available to them.

The Egyptian Government recently rejected an offer from the U.S. State Department affirming that it decided to allocate unconditional urgent economic aid for Egypt worth $400 million-$600 million on the condition [as published] that Egypt fully complies with the application of the economic sanctions against Libya. According to the offer, Egypt should not show any sympathy or reluctance regarding the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Egypt also must agree that the land embargo should include the setting up of U.S., British, and French security centers inside Egypt.

The U.S. State Department affirmed that Egypt's approval of this offer will greatly contribute to eliminating all problems facing the economic relations between the two countries. The U.S. State Department also affirmed that the United States will pressure the IMF to consider the Egyptian economic policy's social dimensions and that Egypt could begin to receive the economic aid as of early May.

Inter-Arab consultations have taken place to agree on defining economic and trade ties with Libya after the implementation of the Security Council resolution. The three Arab Maghreb countries, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states participated in these consultations.

The United States has turned down a request from some Arab countries, including Egypt, to exempt the Arab countries, especially those neighboring Libya, from applying Resolution 748 and that this exemption, granted to the Arab countries, be of a special nature. The U.S. response stressed the need for all Arab countries to

comply with the Security Council resolutions imposing economic sanctions against Libya.

Representatives of the communications workers federation, which comprises workers unions from 13 Arab countries, have decided to refrain from servicing U.S., British, and French aircraft at Arab airports as of 20 April.

African Development Bank To Provide Loan, Grant

NC2404083392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2329 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Ahmad al-Darsh, Ministry of International Cooperation first under secretary and chairman of the ministry's International Finance Department, and his delegation returned to Cairo tonight following a several-day visit to Ivory Coast.

On his return, Dr. al-Darsh said that during his visit he concluded an agreement with the African Development Bank [ADF] according to which the bank will provide Egypt a loan of 100 million units of account "equal to $145 million" to finance structural reform. The ADF also will extend a grant of 2.5 million units of account "equal to $3 million" to finance administrative development at the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation, the foreign loan department at the Egyptian Central Bank, and the Egyptian data center. [passage omitted]

Moroccan Crown Prince Departs After 6-Day Visit

NC2304143892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Moroccan Crown Prince Muhammad and his accompanying delegation left Cairo at noon today following a six-day visit at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi saw the Moroccan crown prince off at the airpot.

While in Egypt, the Moroccan crown prince met with Mubarak and visited archaeological and historical sites in Cairo, al-Jizah, Luxor, and Aswan.

Six Greeks Sentenced To Death on Drug Charges

NC2304203692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1951 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Suez, 23 Apr (MENA)—In its session today, the Suez Criminal Court sentenced to death by hanging six Greeks accused of smuggling narcotics into the country. The court also fined each of them half a million Egyptian pounds, confiscated the seized drugs, and ordered them to pay customs compensation worth 117 million Egyptian pounds.

The sentence was unanimous after His Eminence Dr. Sayyid Tantawi, the republic's mufti, endorsed hanging the six defendants, three of whom remain at large.

The six defendants smuggled in 6 tonnes of hashish from Lebanon in late 1989. Three of them, Nicola Jaja, Costanis Jonais, and Astasos Mikhail, were arrested on board a Greek ship at Bur Tawfiq. The fugitives are Ilyas Satos, Spios Jaja, and Tideo Asanasio.

Libya

Agrarian Committee Source Says Sanctions Harmful

LD2304161792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Apr (JANA)—A responsible source at the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation has reported that the NATO [as received] resolution to impose compulsory measures against the Great Jamahiriyah has affected this sector negatively and obstructed the course of agricultural development in the Great Jamahiriyah, particularly as regards the supply of equipment and machines for veterinary purposes, agriculture, and cattle breeding.

In a statement to JANA, the source pointed out that the halt to air travel to and from the Great Jamahiriyah has contributed directly to the lack of supply of a number of important elements for the agricultural sector, including calcium, magnesium, copper sulphate, zinc, iron, and manganese, of which the needs of the sector are estimated at half-a-million Libyan dinars.

The source reported that among the important needs of the sector which are greatly affected are veterinary medicines and equipment, of which the needs are estimated at 4 million Libyan dinars every year, and which contribute to the preservation of more than 7 million sheep and 120,000 cattle.

The General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation has made public a list which includes the annual needs of chicken and cattle breeding projects, which were estimated at 24 million Libyan dinars, equivalent to 25 million dollars [currency not identified], for importing eggs for incubation; one-day-old chicks for later egg production; turkey chicks; egg-laying chickens; raw feed materials and concentrates; necessary materials for the running of production complexes; materials for packaging and packing; laboratory equipment; and spare parts for these complexes.

'Hateful Western Crusader Campaign' Assailed

LD2204112192 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpts] A shoe shop was set on fire yesterday in a London suburb in protest of the sale of shoes that have verses from the Koran and sublime utterances [lafzu al-jalalah] written on them to ridicule Islamic sanctities and insult the feelings of Muslims as part of the hateful Western crusader campaign against Islam and Muslims around the world. The shop was burned down after a meeting last Friday between a Muslim group and the owner of the shop, who persistently refused to stop selling the shoes, claiming that there is no difference between Koranic verses written on shoes and prints on clothes. [passage omitted]

It is clear that such an act did not come out of the blue. It is part of the hateful Western crusader campaign against Islam and the Muslims which aims to humiliate adherents of the Islamic religion. This act, which so clearly ridicules the Islamic religion and the feelings of its adherents, came less than three years after the publication of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" which was an extreme and hateful offense against the Prophet Muhammad and against Islam. The British Government provided the author with special security and ordered all European presses to expand their distribution in a blatant scheme to harm the Islamic religion in the eyes of public opinion in European and other countries.

The U.S. Congress and members of the administration also gave Rushdie an official reception and enabled him to give lectures at some U.S. universities, which had Muslim students, with a view to humiliating those students.

Writing Koranic verses on shoes is a new insult to the true religion of Islam and its adherents. Also, writing sublime utterances on shoes worn in gambling dens and filthy places is tantamount to telling us, the Muslims: This is your Koran and this is your religion, we trample on them. Will the Muslims' conscience awaken to these vicious times where Muslims are meant to convert to Western Christianity?

Mauritania

Full Diplomatic Relations Restored With Senegal

AB2304212092 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Communique signed in Dakar, Senegal on 22 April on the resumption of diplomatic relations and other services and issued simultaneously in Dakar and Nouakchott—read by announcer]

[Text] The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Government of the Republic of Senegal, considering the determination of the two heads of state, their excellencies President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya and Abdou Diouf, to continually make the necessary efforts to restore and preserve peace and security in the subregion and to improve bilateral relations in accordance with the aims and objectives of the UN and OAU Charters; being aware of the fact that the painful events that occurred in April 1989 have seriously affected the brotherly relations that have always existed between the two peoples; being determined to reestablish the atmosphere of mutual trust founded on ties of good neighborliness, solidarity, and brotherly cooperation between our two countries; and being willing to safeguard historically and geographically the precious heritage of culture and civilization between the two peoples throughout the centuries, have decided the following:

1. First of all, the immediate reestablishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between the two countries;
2. The immediate resumption of air and postal links;
3. The reopening of land borders at a date and under conditions to be determined as soon as possible by the competent national administrations of the two countries;

4. The pursuit of efforts by the organ set up to maintain and consolidate the sought-after results;

In this regard the two governments emphasized their desire to see these efforts bear fruit in the shortest possible time at the end of the ongoing discussions on the relief program to benefit the concerned peoples;

5. The creation of interstate structures in charge of monitoring the implementation of the decisions already made and which will examine, in a spirit of understanding and solidarity, all questions raised by one or the other party concerned, the solution of which would safeguard and consolidate the relations of trust between the two countries.

Signed in Dakar on 22 April 1992;

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation;

For the Government of the Republic of Senegal, Djibo Ka, minister of foreign affairs.

Morocco

Nuclear Power Plant To Be Built 'Shortly'

LD2304154492 Rabat MAP in English 1328 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Rabat, Apr 23 (MAP)—Morocco is to have a nuclear plant shortly, said Assistant Director General of the Moroccan Electricity Office (ONE) Mekki Berrada in an interview with Moroccan daily "MAROC-SOIR". The plant will be the result of studies conducted over eight years by specialized bodies and companies, Berrada said in his comments on the use of atomic energy for scientific and economic ends and on Morocco's energy needs.

He said according to studies on Morocco's future needs in matters of electric energy, on the basis of an annual growth rate of 7 per cent, these needs will be of 25 billion kwh [kilowatt hour] by year 2005.

As to the peaceful use of atomic energy, Berrada said the fields for such a use are so numerous citing as an instance medicine and agricultural research. The nuclear use in Morocco recorded remarkable progress and is expected to increase in coming years through the activities of the Nuclear Studies Center, the National Center for Nuclear Energy, Science and Techniques, and in a longer term through the setting up of the nuclear electric energy, Berrada said.

Sudan

Government Claims Recapture of Pibor

EA2304151592 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1343 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Here is some news that we have just received: Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, official armed forces spokesman, has announced that our brave armed forces and the Popular Defense Forces this morning recaptured Pibor [in Upper Nile Province].

The National Unity Radio staff offer their sincere congratulations to the Sudanese people, our brave armed forces, and the Popular Defense Forces on the occasion of the recapture of the town of Pibor this morning.

Official Says 10,000 Kurdufan Rebels Surrender

EA2204180092 Khartoum SUNA in French 0945 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Apr (SUNA)—More than 10,000 rebels in southern Kurdufan, in the west of the country, have surrendered to the Sudanese Armed Forces during the last two weeks, 'Umar Sulayman Adam, the deputy governor of Kurdufan Province in charge of peace, announced.

Mr. Adam pointed out that the state of health of the people did not allow them to return to the peace towns, adding that the state was providing them with medical services before transferring them to the peace villages.

He reaffirmed that the armed forces and the Popular Defense Forces were in control of the situation in southern Kurdufan. He also confirmed that the rebel movement was currently suffering serious divisions leading to assassinations among the rebel political and military leaders.

SPLA Says Government Offensive 'Failed'

AB2204153092 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 21 Apr 92

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In the last two months Sudan's southern SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels appear to have taken quite a beating. A string of towns including Bor and Yirol has fallen to the Sudanese Army. The Khartoum government launched a major offensive out of Juba, Waw, and [name indistinct] sending thousands of civilians fleeing. And yesterday the authorities claimed a whole battalion of SPLA fighters had surrendered. But now the SPLA seem to have scored a small success against an Army convoy. Robin White asked SPLA London spokesman Richard Mula what it was.

[Begin recording] [Mula] The success we are claiming is not really small. The success we are claiming is tremendous because the first success is the one we had on the convoys coming from Waw to Tambura. This convoy was intended to come and capture the whole of Western Equatoria, but we have annihilated the whole convoy and taken a lot of arms and ammunitions.

[White] You say annihilated. You claim to have killed people?

[Mula] Yes, we killed over 500. There were 800 and we killed over 500. It was 569 exactly, dead bodies found on the ground. The rest had escaped and scattered into the bush; the commander has fled back to Waw and we have ordered our forces to advance on to Waw. So, Waw is now in danger.

[White] This happened when?

[Mula] On the 17th of this month, on April 17.

[White] And, this was an attempt by government troops to move from Waw towards Tambura. Is that what you are saying?

[Mula] Yes, that is it.

[White] And, you have cut it off completely?

[Mula] Completely; we have killed the majority and we have dispersed the remnants. The commander has fled back to Waw through the bush.

[White] What about your own casualties?

[Mula] Very minimal casualties, if any.

[White] Now, you say you are claiming another success. What is that?

[Mula] The other success is at Ngangala. The enemy had claimed that they had taken Ngangala, but we have beaten them off; we have destroyed the first brigade which came from Juba to Ngangala trying to advance onto Torit. That one is completely destroyed; we have inflicted heavy casualties on them totaling 352 wounded or killed in action, destroyed their five tanks and 20 vehicles.

[White] This seems a very small success compared with all the losses you have suffered, the towns you have lost, the people who fled; these seem rather small.

[Mula] It is not small at all. The towns... [changes thought] we evacuated the towns deliberately. It was tactical; we would withdraw from the towns so that the enemies could enter the town and we besiege them. In fact, we have besieged them. Bor is now under tight siege, and so is Yirol, and soldiers in Bor and Yirol are starving. And, we just received information that two steamers were coming with reinforcement and logistical supplies for the troops in Bor, but we have sunk and destroyed two steamers. The third one has disappeared in the sand.

[White] These are steamers coming down the Nile?

[Mula] Yes, they are coming from Malakal, supposed to reinforce Bor.

[White] And you claim you have sunk them.

[Mula] We have sunk them and destroyed them completely. So, I do not see any chance of how these soldiers can survive in these towns in the wet season, anyway.

[White] Has the rainy season started yet?

[Mula] Yes, it has started, but it will increase accordingly; it will increase as this month gets to an end.

[White] So, do you think you have reached a turning point now?

[Mula] Yes, I think so. We have reached a turning point. I think 'Umar al-Bashir has failed in his dry-season offensive. It is a very disastrous failure, and I think SPLA is likely to win.

[White] Are these not false hopes you are trying to build up for yourself because it does look as if you are losing this war and losing it badly?

[Mula] We are not losing the war at all. We have played our tactics very well in this dry-season offensive. We have pulled ourselves out of less important towns, placed ourselves in important places like Ngangala where the enemy was supposed to advance and capture our headquarters. They are not going to do it; they will never do it; they will be chased back to Juba. Juba will even be attacked, and Waw is already under attack, so we are not losing it; we will finish them in the towns where they have entered because they are starving, and after the starvation we will kill them. [end recording]

Minister Addresses Assembly on Foreign Policy

EA2204210792 Khartoum SUNA in English 1658 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Apr (SUNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul has pointed out that the clearness of vision, the adoption of stances that reflect the values of Sudanese people in building bridges with the other peoples and the liberation of Sudan's stances from subordination were the most distinctive character of the Sudanese foreign policy.

Sahlul, addressing the Transitional National Assembly, T.N.A., here Wednesday [22 April] on Sudan's foreign policy, indicated that the most distinguished achievements in the field of foreign policy were represented in the formation of the Foreign Affairs Committee under the chairmanship of the chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the consolidation of friendship ties with the countries which share with Sudan common goals and expectations. He further indicated that the Sudan's foreign policy was based on a fair Islamic philosophy that observe equity and justice.

The foreign ministry [as received] reviewed the revolution's efforts for the inculcation of constant principles in the foreign policy based on stability and development, particularly with the neighbouring countries and states of the Horn of Africa region.

He said that Sudan would be enable to take the necessary measures for the realisation of a lasting stability in the Horn of Africa region, citing as a prelude for these measures, Sudan's contributions in the regional conference for relief and rehabilitation which was held recently in Addis Ababa and its efforts for solving the problems of Somalia and Djibouti.

The minister touched on the Sudanese-Arab relations which were positively and negatively affected by the Gulf crisis. These relations were developed with some Arab countries particularly Libya which engaged in an integration with Sudan, said the minister. Sahlul, in this connection affirmed Sudan's siding with Libya in the face of the West aggression.

He also reviewed Sudan's efforts for promoting its relations with the countries of [word indistinct] and Iran and the agreements signed with them.

The foreign minister said that his ministry was jointly making efforts with Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida [word indistinct] (?reaching) peace in southern Sudan.

Western Sahara

Polisario: Morocco Strengthening Defensive Line

LD2404091892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] yesterday accused Morocco of carrying out more construction work to reinforce the Moroccan defensive line in the Amgala region in Western Sahara.

A statement issued by the Sahrawi information minister said that the behavior of the Moroccan authorities was a blatant violation of the cease-fire agreement reached by the two sides on 6 September 1991. These developments are occurring while the UN envoy in charge of Western Sahara file is visiting the region in an attempt to remove the obstacles that are preventing the holding of the referendum on the self-determination of the Sahrawi people. The referendum was postponed last January as a result of the dispute that broke out between the Polisario and Morocco about ways to determine the number of voters.

Bahrain

Amir Holds Talks With Syrian President al-Asad

JN2204121292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Report from Manama by radio correspondents accompanying Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad]

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Manama today at 1230 Damascus time [0930 GMT] on a short visit to Bahrain as part of his tour of the Arabian Gulf states. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest at the VIP lounge the Bahraini amir accompanied President Hafiz al-Asad in an official motorcade to (?al-Qudhaybiyah) Palace, where official talks began. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president; and Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, and on the Bahraini side by Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; and Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force. The talks dealt with the general Arab situation and bilateral relations.

President Hafiz al-Asad left Muscat at 1100 today Damascus time. At the head of those seeing him off was Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, who accompanied the president from his place of residence in al-Bustan Palace to the special sultani airport. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister Welcomes UN Decision on Iraqi Border

NC2304205292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1904 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Sammar, Kuwaiti minister of justice and legal affairs, has welcomed the resolutions of the UN committee tasked with demarcating the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border in its fifth session held 8 to 16 April.

In a statement today al-Sammar said that in making its recommendations the committee relied on documents and memoranda exchanged between Kuwait and Iraq in 1923 and proceedings of official meetings held in 1963 on establishing the border. These documents were deposited at the United Nations and the Arab League Headquarters. The committee also studied internationally recognized documents and maps, carried out technical legal and field studies, and applied principles of international law.

The committee's resolution included a border change: moving the land border 600 meters in Kuwait's favor along the 200-km border. The resolution was passed unanimously with the exception of Iraq. This border change will give to Kuwait part of the strategic Iraqi port of Umm al-Qasr and a number of the al-Rumaylah field oil wells.

The Kuwaiti minister emphasized that Kuwait is dropping any and all previous claims concerning Iraqi territory and resources.

He said that the neutral UN committee has revealed to the world that Kuwait's territorial integrity has been encroached upon and that Kuwait's oil has been stolen from the al-Ratqah [place-name as received] field.

He added that Kuwait clings to its legal and legitimate rights, saying that it has faith that the Security Council resolution will be eventually be implemented. He noted that Iraq was committed to and agreed in advance on implementing Security Council Resolution 687. He affirmed that all the committee's resolutions are binding on the parties concerned and on the international community even if one party does not agree with them.

He urged Iraq to withdraw its remaining posts from inside the Kuwaiti part of the demilitarized zone in accordance with the resolutions of the UN committee in charge of demarcating the border.

The Kuwaiti justice minister is currently visiting Egypt after leading his country's delegation to the Arab justice ministers second [as received] session, which concluded yesterday.

Oman

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa Begins Visit

Makes Statement Upon Arrival

NC2204120292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Muscat, 22 Apr (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Muscat this afternoon on a three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman as part of his current tour of the region.

Upon his arrival Musa told the Omani news agency that he is carrying a message to Omani Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

He added that during his visit he will hold talks with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs [words indistinct] the situation in the Gulf, the Damascus Declaration, the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, the problems and challenges the Arab world is being subjected to, and bilateral relations.

As for the results of talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Musa said that Egypt's role is to continue making all efforts to reach a satisfactory solution within the framework of international legitimacy and protecting the interests of the Arab world and the Libyan brothers. This requires numerous contacts, continuous meetings, and constant efforts. This visit comes within the same framework.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of ranking officials at the Omani Foreign Ministry received Musa upon his arrival.

Meets With Sultan

JN2204141992 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received an oral message from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message was delivered by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa when the sultan received him at his office in al-Sib Palace today.

The message deals with the fraternal relations between the two countries in all areas and everything that serves the good of the people of the two countries. The message also deals with the exchange of views between the two leaders on a number of current international issues of mutual interest, headed by the current Arab issues.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Egyptian ambassador to the Sultanate attended the meeting.

Holds News Conference

NC2304120192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Muscat, 23 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that an amendment to the Damascus Declaration is not on the table, adding that there are no differences among the eight member states on its proposed formulation.

In a news conference he held in Muscat this morning, Musa said that the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states will discuss the mechanism for its implementation in their upcoming meeting. The Omani news agency quoted Musa as saying that the message he had conveyed to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman from President Husni Mubarak concerns the situation in the Gulf, the Middle East, and the international situation in general, as well as bilateral relations.

Musa emphasized that Egypt is making intensive efforts to settle the Libyan-Western crisis, noting that this crisis is extremely sensitive and that contacts about it may not bear fruit in one session or at a specific moment. He added that efforts and dialogue with Libya and the other parties are under way to reach solutions and stands that could serve as a basis for settling this crisis.

As for UN Security Council Resolution 242, the Egyptian foreign minister emphasized that it is a binding decision based on an exchange of land for peace, the distribution of rights and duties, and living in peace. He added that this decision is inviolable. He noted that this resolution is backed by another one, namely Resolution 338.

Asked about the place of the Arab countries in the new international blocs, Musa called on the Arab states to be effective and positive in this regard.

Musa praised Egyptian-Omani relations, noting that the positive nature of these relations and the openness, frankness, and friendliness marking them constitute the true essence of [words indistinct] to building a sound and proper edifice of Arab relations. He described his meeting with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id yesterday as an extremely good meeting during which a number of delicate issues related to Arab interests and the regional situation were discussed. The Egyptian foreign minister noted that he had listened during the meeting to Sultan Qabus' views on the various Arab and international issues, adding that his views reflected an awareness of all issues.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, was present at the news conference and answered a question on the situation in Abu-Musa' Island in the Gulf. He noted that the Iranian-Gulf relationship is generally positive and expressed his confidence that both the United Arab Emirates and Iran are capable of finding desirable ways of resolving this issue and maintaining positive relations. Bin-'Alawi noted that the message which Musa conveyed from President Mubarak to Sultan Qabus emphasized the identity of views between the two leaders on all issues under discussion.

Qatar

Syrian President al-Asad Hold Talks With Amir

JN2304103092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0852 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Doha, 23 Apr (SANA)—Today at 1015 Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, began talks at the amir's palace in Doha. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. On the Qatari side the meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; and Mubarak al-Khatir, foreign minister.

Talks centered on the general Arab situation, developments in the region, and bilateral relations.

Departs 23 Apr

JN2304114292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Doha, 23 Apr (WAKH)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad left Doha at noon today after a two-day visit to Qatar during which he met with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar.

(?He was seen off] on his departure by the amir of Qatar; His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; ministers, senior Qatari officials, and diplomats.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Discuss al-Asad Visit

LD2004193592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 20 Apr (SPA)—His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, heir apparent, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon at Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

After the session Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that "within the blessed visit, beginning yesterday, by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, HRH Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz briefed the Council on the discussions he had with President Hafiz AL-Asad at the royal office yesterday and described these talks as fruitful, constructive, and characterized by clarity and candor on the matters discussed. The discussions also dealt with mutual aspirations for further cooperation and boosting and consolidating the ties of brotherhood between the two leaders and the two peoples. [passage omitted]

Within this framework HRH Prince 'Abdallah spoke about topical matters and expressed his sincere hope that the leaders of the Afghan mojahedin will cooperate together in order to achieve the correct decision safeguarding their legitimate rights and preserving the achievements of their long struggle to bring complete justice, peace, independence, and lasting stability to their homeland. [passage omitted]

Government, Uzebekistan Issue Joint Communique

LD2004102592 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Jiddah, April 17, SPA—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Uzbekistan have expressed satisfaction and delight on the establishment of diplomatic relations between them and decided to reinforce and deepen the brotherly ties between them in various spheres in the framework of the common desire to realise the aspirations and the best interests of their peoples.

The two sides also expressed satisfaction over the independence of Islamic republics of the Central Asia and that the Islamic republic had restored their religious, cultural and national rights, a matter that would enhance security and stability in that part of the world.

The remarks came in a joint communique issued on Thursday following a visit paid to the Kingdom by President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan between April 11 and 13, 1992 during which he held talks with custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud on the bilateral relations between the two countries, the peace process in the Middle East, the Afghan cause and other matters of mutual interest.

The two sides emphasized the necessity of consolidated efforts to promote the fraternal ties between the two countries and serve the Islamic interests. They deplored interference in the domestic affairs of others and renounce the use of force as a mean to settle disputes between countries and peoples.

The two sides also reviewed ways to strengthen the historical and cultural relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan in economic, commercial, investment, technical, cultural, youth and sports fields and decided that urgent steps would by taken to encourage economic, commercial, investment, industrial and technical cooperation between them in the framework of valid regulations in the two countries.

They agreed that the officials of the two countries would exchange visits and participate in commercial, industrial and international exhibitions to be hosted by either of them.

The two sides also decided to encourage the bilateral cooperation in the fields of science, technology, culture, youth and sports and to work out an agreement to regulate the process of the bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan reiterated their full support for the peace process in the Middle East and emphasized the importance of the realisation of a just and a lasting settlement for the Palestinian question which would enable the Palestinian people to exercise its national rights.

They expressed satisfaction over the U.N.-led efforts to restore peace and stability to Afghanistan.

The Uzbek president expressed thanks and appreciation to King Fahd for the warm reception and accommodation awarded to him and his accompanying delegation during the visit.

President Karimov appreciated the efforts and assistance being rendered by King Fahd for the developing nations, to enhance the cooperation and solidarity between countries and promote the brotherly ties between their peoples in the framework of the Islamic cardinal virtues.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Egyptian Foreign Minister

NC2204103992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0927 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Apr (MENA)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received an oral message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak concerning the latest developments in the Arab and Gulf arenas, in addition to issues that are of interest to the two countries and relations between them.

Shaykh Zayid was given this message today when he received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is

currently visiting Abu Dhabi. Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, attended the meeting.

It is worth noting here that 'Amr Musa is currently touring Gulf states and has so far visited Qatar and the UAE.

Republic of Yemen

Official Statement on Saudi Embassy Incident

NC2104204692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Preliminary investigations by the Yemeni Interior Ministry have shown that the Yemeni citizen who detained the Saudi ambassador in his office in the Saudi Embassy in Sanaa two days ago had been accused of belonging to extremist political groups and was involved in several bombing incidents in Sanaa in 1984.

An official statement issued by the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo cites Yemeni Interior Ministry officials as saying that the citizen, 'Abdallah 'Ali Jamil al-Matari, who used the alias "Ahmad Mutahhar" during the hostage-taking incident, had visited the Saudi Embassy in Sanaa more than once and met with Saudi Ambassador 'Ali Muhammad al-Qufaydi on 8 April 1992 after making an urgent request for this meeting.

The statement said that the Saudi ambassador agreed to meet with the Yemeni man at his office on the day of the incident. Al-Matari later revealed that he hid his pistol between his legs and entered the building after the ambassador told the guards to let him in.

The statement explained that Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Ghalib Mutahhar telephoned his Saudi counterpart and informed him that security forces had arrested the culprit and released the ambassador. He also asked him to send a Saudi delegation to view the results of the investigation, but no response has yet been received from the Saudis.

Riyadh Said Waging 'Economic War' on Yemen

PM2204151092 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Apr 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Disputes Erupt Between Saudi Arabia and Yemen; Military Provocations, Assassinations, and Tribal Seditions"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Well-informed Yemeni sources have confirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has for some time been intensifying its efforts to exact a price which it believes Yemen that should pay for the stand that it adopted on the Gulf war and for refusing to resolve the border issue between the two countries "on Saudi terms." The same sources say that these terms are "unfair" and that to accept them would be seen in Yemen as "high treason and a surrender of Yemeni sovereignty and honor."

The sources emphasized to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Saudi Arabia was about to carry out a large-scale operation to destabilize the political and security situation in Yemen. The operation will focus on instigating political conflicts among Yemeni parties in the current atmosphere of relative democracy in Yemen. [passage omitted]

According to the same sources, Saudi Arabia is applying the method of inciting tribal sedition, as well as military provocations in areas adjacent to territory under Saudi control. Saudi Arabia, the sources charge, is currently taking security and military measures in southern areas in preparation for hostile action against Yemen, and it is currently also sending huge military reinforcements to these areas, where it now has a major air base described as the region's largest and believed to be as large as Britain's Heathrow Airport.

Several months ago Saudi Arabia staged its largest exercise in the southern region codenamed "Southern Thunder." Military observers believe that the main purpose of the exercise was to train for the invasion of Yemeni territory. [passage omitted]

The Yemeni sources also accused Saudi Arabia of preparing a precise scenario for armed operations by instructing trained units or pro-Saudi elements within Yemeni territory to sabotage some Saudi military installations and equipment across the border. The sources claimed that Prince Bandar Bin-Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman Al Sa'ud planned the operation under the direct supervision of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi defense and aviation minister and who is in charge of the Yemeni file as head of the special bureau for Yemeni affairs at the royal court.

The same sources believe that the Saudis are currently planning large-scale operations to assassinate a number of government and social figures and prominent leaders of political parties in order to split the Yemeni political forces. [passage omitted]

Some information indicates that Saudi Arabia was behind the series of security disturbances and the assassination of partisan and tribal figures in Yemen.

The information available indicates that as part of the economic war against Yemen, Saudi Arabia has tightened the noose around the Yemeni economy by blocking Yemeni expatriates' remittances to their families in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Opposition Notes Government Offensive in Marshlands

NC2304174592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has reported that the Iraqi Army has launched a new attack against the revolutionary fighters and refugees in the marshlands in southern Iraq.

SAIRI said that Iraqi Government forces forcefully attacked three Shiite areas near al-'Amarah, al-Basrah, and al-Nasiriyah two days ago, adding that many people were killed and wounded in the attacks.

[Paris AFP in English at 1407 GMT on 23 April, in a similar report adds: "The Iraqi Army has used helicopters in an assault on marshes in the south of the country where Shiite rebels are based, an opposition group charged Thursday. The Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) reported hundreds of civilian casualties but said the guerrillas had repulsed the assault, also killing or wounding hundreds of soldiers.

["The offensive was launched Tuesday, according to SAIRI communiques received in Nicosia. Artillery and tanks backed Iraqi infantry in attacks on the swamps of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah and al-'Amarah, near the Iranian border."]

Attacks Kill, Wound 'Hundreds'

NC2304184992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The forces of tyrant Saddam have begun a large-scale operation in the marshland areas in the governorates of al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, and al-Nasiriyah. An official SAIRI spokesman has said that at 0600 on Tuesday, 21 April, formations of the 47th and 31st Brigades, backed by artillery and tank battalions, launched an attack on the (al-Masab), (al-Mikta), and (al-'Abrah) marshland areas in al-Basrah. The source added that these areas and nearby villages are being subjected to intensive tank and artillery fire. The official noted that the despicable regime deployed three military divisions equipped with armored vehicles and heavy artillery in the al-Basrah marshland areas. These divisions are using speedboats in attacks and in moving 3d Corps equipment and personnel to the area.

The source said that the regime deployed three divisions in the al-'Amarah marshland areas: the 1st Division in (al-Shattaniyah), the 18th Division in (Sahin), and the 11th Division in al-Tuwaylah.

The source said that since Tuesday these three divisions, which are part of the 6th Corps, have been shelling the aforementioned areas and (al-Jadi) and (al-'Ajr). Some 500 shells have struck (al-'Ajr) alone, setting many homes on fire. Many inhabitants of (al-Jadi), al-Sayqal, and Abu Jariyah have abandoned their homes because of the intensive shelling.

The source said that to date over 1,000 families have left these areas. Many more have been unable to leave their villages due to the continued shelling.

On Monday, 20 April the tyrant forces attacked with military vehicles, backed by artillery, areas located between (al-Shabayish) and (al-Khut) in the al-Nasiriyah marshland. The tyrant forces began their attack with an assault against the areas of (Abu-Judaydah), (al-Shuwayri), (al-Diban), and 'Abbarah, forcing local inhabitants to flee their homes. The same forces also attacked the areas of (al-'Ishrin), (Bur Zuwaylat), (al-Ghubayyir), (al-Shuwa'riyah), and (Bur al-Fil). The barbaric attacks have so far left hundreds of civilians dead or wounded and have damaged many homes.

SAIRI sources have called on the international community and international and humanitarian organizations to denounce these grievous human rights violations by the regime of tyrant Saddam and to exert efforts to quickly implement UN Security Council Resolution 688, which calls on Saddam's regime to stop its repressive measures against the Iraqi people.

Opposition Opposes UN Kuwaiti Border Accord

NC2304155792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Excerpt] A number of Iraqi opposition figures have emphasized that the recommendations of the UN committee assigned by Security Council Resolution 687 to demarcate the borders between Iraq and fraternal Kuwait include changes that would infringe on Iraqi sovereignty. In a statement, the opposition figures said that they received with deep attention and concern, and with a feeling of national and pan-Arab responsibility, the report on the UN committee's recommendations.

The statement says: While we emphasize the importance and need to settle border disputes and other differences between the two fraternal countries, including the effects of the Saddam Husyan regime's aggression against Kuwait, we believe that the atmosphere and circumstances in which the pending issues are being discussed are inappropriate, particularly in view of the fact that tyrant Saddam Husayn is still in power. Saddam has neither the legitimacy nor the qualifications to speak for or represent the Iraqi people, especially on issues relating to national sovereignty and the fate of the homeland and territorial integrity.

The statement calls on the Security Council to postpone the debate of the border dispute until a legitimate government representing the people's will is established in Iraq. It also asks that ratification of the UN committee's recommendations be put off until direct negotiations between the two countries can be held. These talks will help point out common interests and rights and will enhance Arab and Islamic fraternity and their common historic ties on the basis of equality, free will, and noninterference in internal affairs in accordance with the Arab League Charter, the UN Charter, and international law.

The statement appeals to the Kuwaiti brothers—people and government—to adopt a positive stand and not be carried away by the chance to cash in on certain short-term gains which would seriously damage fraternal ties and be a permanent cause of concern in bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Islamic al-Da'wah Party Voices 'Concern'

NC2304164192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Islamic al-Da'wah Party [IDP] has expressed its extreme concern over a report that the UN committee entrusted with demarcating the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border has approved a final map delineating the land borders, according to which part of Umm Qasr port was annexed to Kuwait, the 200 km-long border was moved 600 meters north in favor of Kuwait, and a number of oil wells southwest of the al-Rumaylah oil field were given to Kuwait.

In a statement the IDP reaffirmed the party's principled stands of denouncing Saddam's invasion, occupation, and destruction of Kuwait; holding the Saddam regime fully responsible for all that has happened; recognizing the right of the Kuwaiti people and state to independence and sovereignty within internationally recognized borders; and respecting historical, religious, and social ties and relations as well as common interests between the fraternal peoples of Iraq and Kuwait—ties and relations which are more profound than the border issue or related details.

At the same time, the IDP emphasized that any error in resolving the border demarcation issue will be a new bomb, one capable of exploding at any time. This will expose future bilateral relations to danger and give people the justification to adopt stands which are not in the interests of the people. The IDP noted that a sound solution to the border issue lies in temporarily adopting the border that existed before Saddam's invasion, pending the overthrow of Saddam's regime. The borders will be delineated through direct negotiations between the Kuwaiti Government and an elected, legitimate Iraqi Government which represents the Iraqi people and which emerges after Saddam's regime has been toppled.

The IDP urged the Kuwaiti Government to be patient and to coordinate with the Iraqi opposition forces on this matter.

Ba'th Party Official Returns From Libya Visit

JN2304122092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the party's Foreign Relations Bureau, and the delegation accompanying him have returned to Baghdad after a visit to Libya.

He told INA that he conveyed during the visit greetings from leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, and that he emphasized the support of the Iraqi people and leadership for the fraternal Libyan Arab people as they confront the air embargo and the hostile U.S.-Western campaign against Libya. [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes UN Security Council Actions

JN2404101692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—In an article today the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that observers of the UN Security Council's conduct can clearly see its full swing behind the U.S. Administration and its desire to control the world.

The paper says that since the events of 2 August 1990 the UN Security Council has made hasty and unfair resolutions against Iraq, the symbol of the new Arab renaissance, in line with the U.S.-Zionist scheme to strike against every pillar of science and civilization in the Arab homeland.

The paper points out that the UN Security Council, which has lost its credibility and legitimacy, has also rushed behind the U.S. illusions to issue yet another unfair resolution against fraternal Libya, confirming once and for all that it is a U.S. council and not a world security council.

The paper emphasizes that UN Security Council Resolution 748 is, like its predecessors, a purely U.S. resolution which Washington is seeking to use to abort any independent, nationalistic, and revolutionary movement in the Arab homeland.

The paper explains that the U.S.-Zionist scheme to control the Arabs and the world was planned years ago. The fabricated crises with Iraq and Libya are part of an exposed scenario. The paper says: After it became certain that Iraq and Libya had emerged as the principal powers in the Arab world with both Arab and regional influence, the United States went mad and made the two countries targets for its aggressive objectives.

The paper adds that fraternal Libya is not the last target for Washington. The White House's list includes more targets such as Sudan, Syria, and others.

The paper says that in view of what happened to Iraq and is happening now to Libya, the Arabs and all Third World countries are urged to cooperate and stand united in the face of the U.S. tyranny and the perils of the so-called new world order which means, in effect, the world's submission to U.S. authority.

Report Notes Smuggling on Jordanian Border

JN2204195392 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Apr 92 p 4

[By Khalid al-Qaraghuli]

[Text] Al-Anbar—A detachment of the al-Qadisiyah customs police force at the Tirbil border complex has confiscated 30 tonnes of copper hidden in an oil truck after unloading the truck.

Captain Ibrahim Qasim, commander of the al-Qadisiyah customs police, said that large quantities of copper hidden in private cars as well as large trucks trying to smuggle 825 sheep were also seized at the border strip between Iraq and Jordan, in the al-Asna [place-name as published] and Tirbil areas in particular. A number of citizens, he added, were also apprehended trying to smuggle large quantities of Iraqi and foreign currency.

He affirmed that legal measures were taken against these smugglers and that our detachments continue to monitor such phenomena around the clock in order to stop them.

Radiation From U.S. Ship Causes Kuwait 'Panic'

JN2304194992 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Bakr Salih in al-Basrah]

[Text] The region of Kuwait is currently witnessing a state of panic and fear, and some families have already started to leave the region after having received information about a major technical malfunction aboard the U.S. nuclear warship America during naval maneuvers off the Kuwaiti coast.

Information received by AL-JUMHURIYAH's office in the southern region indicates that Kuwait is now in a state of great panic due to the fear of radiation leakage as a result of the malfunction aboard the U.S. vessel.

Kuwaiti banks have reportedly been witnessing a state of chaos and confusion because of the large number of citizens who are withdrawing their money and leaving the country. Also, the land route between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia is witnessing a traffic jam because citizens and their families are fleeing the country by car, fearing the spread of radiation.

In addition, several patients have left Kuwaiti hospitals in a state of confusion to escape the country as quickly as possible, and many cars have been seen lining up at gas stations to fill up their tanks before fleeing the country.

Public Polled on Relevance of Newspaper Articles

JN2104104892 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Apr 92 pp 8, 2

[Excerpt] An opinion poll carried out by the Planning Ministry on Iraqi papers published this year has shown that AL-JUMHURIYAH is the paper that deals most with topics of relevance to people's affairs. BABIL came next, followed by AL-THAWRAH.

The poll, the results of which were not accepted by some chief editors, surveyed the opinions of 1,940 people, including senior state officials, university professors, educated people, and other numerous sectors. Of those polled, 1,457 were males and 483 females; 920 have a university degree, and 44.1 percent are employed in the private sector.

Only 20.5 percent of those polled said that local papers cover all topics of interest to readers, while 64.4 percent said that AL-THAWRAH is the paper that best covers political news, followed by AL-JUMHURIYAH. [passage omitted]

King Assesses Peace Talks, U.S. Relations

JN2304184192 Amman Jordan Television Network 4 in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified reporter from the Japanese NHK television network; place and date not given—recorded, in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Husayn] I believe that Jordanians have passed through so much. It is, very frankly, a situation where we are not shifting towards anyone. We are part of the area, we are part of the Arab world. We would seek to cooperate on an equal basis with all, and build a better future for our peoples together.

[Reporter] Middle East peace talks have been going on for the last six months. How do you assess the progress so far, or the lack of progress?

[Husayn] We foresaw from the outset that it was going to take a monumental effort, and that it was going to take time and patience and perseverance. No results could be expected within a short space of time. I think that some progress has been made in the sense that we could meet and talk and discuss problems. But we have not really seen any breakthroughs so far, and I hope that with all the other pressures in this area that people are afflicted by, that we see some results soon and we see some progress towards restoring Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil and establishing a just peace that everybody can live with and protect. Otherwise, I am afraid that forces of extremism, on both sides, may once again begin to loom stronger. If we lose this chance, I think this world will be in trouble, of which this is an important part.

[Reporter] You once advocated the concept of confederation, confederation of a Palestinian entity and Jordan. Do you still maintain that concept?

[Husayn] This was a Palestinian concept in the early 1970's. We had said if the territories were to be recovered, there could be one of three choices: Either the independent Palestinian state, or a federated state of Palestine and Jordan, or a unified state. And later in the recent years there was talk about the possibility of a confederation or some similar arrangement. I believe that right now it is not in anybody's interest that we should pursue this any further, because I believe that there is a Palestinian yearning for a Palestinian identity, and in any event it's premature to talk about what the future might bring. We have to wait until, under conditions of total freedom, people on both sides decide.

[Reporter] You have been to the United States of America recently. Is the United States of America the biggest ally to you?

[Husayn] I can't say that the United States of America is the biggest ally of Jordan. Certainly, it assumes a greater role than ever was the case before the recent changes that we have seen in our world. We have had a long friendship, and on a personal level with the U. S. President—I have known him over many years and we have had a friendship which we both value. And I believe we have had misunderstandings in the recent past, but hopefully this is behind us. No one can belittle the importance of the United States, its position, its impact on the world. But my constant prayer is that it will always try to focus on the causes and reasons that talk about the movement of people to the point of [word indistinct] the greatest of powers in the world, the [words indistinct] forefathers to have moved. I hope that they will uphold ideals and principles equally as they relate to problems and their resolution everywhere in the world. By that they can be much stronger than ever, not in the political sense, but in the moral sense.

Delegation 'Armed' With Better Arab Coordination

JN2304064292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23-24 Apr 92 pp 1,5

["Combined Agency Dispatches"]

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordan is going to the next round of bilateral talks with Israel with no change in its position that the peace process is on track despite internal Israeli political problems and armed with better Arab coordination to counter Israeli stalling tactics.

"We are aware that the next round of talks may not produce anything," said a senior official noting that the Israeli delegates to the April 27 meetings in Washington could be "limbo," given the ambiguity in the Jewish state's approach in view of possible changes in government after the June 23 elections in Israel.

The official, who preferred not to be identified, said: "The principle that Jordan has always followed—land-in-exchange for peace and the right of every state to live in peace, in security—is something that does not change, no matter what."

"As long as we are sure of what we believe in and adhere to our principles, it does not matter who we negotiate with, whether Labor or Likud," the official added.

The comment came against a reassertion by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that there could be no territorial compromise with the Arabs.

Mr. Shamir's remarks Tuesday at a ceremony sponsored by Jewish settlers were his toughest on the land issue since the peace talks began in Madrid last October.

The talks are to resume Monday in Washington, and a futher round is expected in Rome after Israeli elections June 23, the State Department said Tuesday.

The talks are based on U.N. Resolution 242, which calls for Israel to withdraw from land occupated in the 1967 Middle East war in exchange for secure borders.

Israel "saw the areas of the homeland that were liberated, not as a bargaining chip for negotiations but as an integral part of the country of the Jewish people," Mr. Shamir said.

He said that Jewish settlements have been built in these areas "not only for security reasons, but for the simple reason that these areas are ours." [passage omitted]

"Settlement there is not just for security reasons but simply because they are ours," he said. "And they will remain ours for ever and ever."

Jordan appeared to take such comments in its stride.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Jordan believes that moving the peace talks to Italy may give new life into the negotiations.

"We hope that we will have negotiations without having to stop," after the talks move to Rome, Dr. al-Majali told the JORDAN TIMES.

The U.S. announced Tuesday the venue for the talks would shift after the April 27 round in Washington.

Palestinians, meanwhile, reacted cautiously to suggestions of new Israeli proposals on elections in the occupied territories, and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said they would not settle for less than internationally-supervised general elections.

"Are they talking about general elections or municipal elections?" asked PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman in Tunis.

"A municipal election offer has no meaning and indicates that Israel is still trying to derail the peace process and run away from peace."

An Israeli diplomat in Washington was quoted as saying Tuesday his country would bring new proposals on Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the talks due to start in Washington on Monday.

The report sparked intensive contacts between the PLO and Palestinian peace negotiators, Palestinian sources said.

"Our sources inside (the occupied lands) tell us it could be an offer to elect mayors, which is not acceptable. The Palestinian self-rule authority is the one that has the right to hold elections to appoint mayors," a PLO official told REUTERS.

Diplomats say even an offer for general elections is not expected to meet tough Palestinian demands.

Shift in Naval 'Harassment' at Gulf of Aqaba Seen

JN2304062292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23-24 April 92 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A perceptible shift has appeared in the enforcement of the naval blockade against Iraq at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba raising hopes among Jordanian shipping agents and importers of a relaxation of what many interprt as international harassment of Jordan-bound freighters regardless of the destination of the cargo they carry.

There was no report of any cargo vessel being denied entry to al-'Aqabah or delayed at the Tiran Straits so far this month, compared with six ships subjected to harassment in February and two in March, according to shipping officials.

Officials, importers and analysts attributed the shift to the personal appeal His Majesty King Husayn made to U.S. President George Bush in Washington last month and a growing conviction that Jordan was strictly enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq, imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"We defintely relate the present situation to the efforts exerted by His Majesty," said Sufyan al-Muhaysin, a senior official of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (JSAA).

According to the U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida, about 13,000 ships were intercepted in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf since the imposition of the embargo in August 1990; 3,500 were boarded for a close inspection of the cargo and about 150 were refused entry.

Among those boarded and diverted to nearby ports for either discharging of "suspect" cargo or "rearrangement" of cargo for closer physical inspection were dozens of vessels carrying goods bound exclusively for the Jordanian market. The delays caused by the cargo—in addition to blanket refusal of entry to port—caused tens of millions of dollars in losses to Jordanian importers.

"While we may not approve of the sanctions againt Iraq, we do understand the nature of the enforcement of the embargo, which at times appeared to extend to food and other commodities exempt from the sanctions," said Ramzi Shahin, a downtown businessman.

"But we fail to see any acceptable logic why Jordanian businesses with strictly local interests were subjected to harassment and consequent losses except of course that it was a form of punishment for Jordanians for sympathising with Iraq."

According to informed businessmen, the enforcers were armed with a "black list" of importers in Jordan who had extensive dealings with Iraq and therefore any cargo addressed to them automatically came under diversion orders.

"We hope that the relatively quiet situation since late last month is an indication that there is a relaxation of the harassment," said another importer. "We have already incured heavy losses and are unable to absorb losses anymore."

In the meantime, business at al-'Aqabah, the main transit port for Iraq prior to the Gulf crisis, is slowly picking up after suffering a crippling blow as a result of the sanctions against Iraq.

Figures released by the JSAA said 311 cargo vessels called at the port, discharging 1.5 million tonnes of cargo in the first three months of this year compared with 377 freighters and 2.1 million tonnes of cargo during the same period of 1990.

Slightly less than 1.5 million tonnes were goods shipped out during the same period in 1992 while the corresponding figure for 1991 was two million tonnes.

"In general, al-'Aqabah is recovering, but the port will never be of its pre-Gulf crisis level as long as the sanctions remain in force," Mr. al-Muhaysin told the JORDAN TIMES.

Cabinet Issues Further Economic Measures

NC2404063592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Statement issued by the cabinet following its meeting in Beirut on 23 April, read out by Muhammad Jarudi, minister of industry and oil and acting information minister—recorded]

[Text] The cabinet met this evening and discussed a number of measures to deal with the economic, financial, and social situation and reduce inflation. The cabinet issued a second group of decisions. These are as follows:

1. To give priority to the collection of taxes and various charges and service fees that, due to circumstances, were not being collected before. This is particularly true regarding income taxes, real estate taxes, inheritance taxes, property registration fees, electricity, water, and telephone bills, fines for construction violations, and harbor charges. Advance payment will be a condition for granting government licenses. The appropriate ministers have been instructed to submit their ideas concerning the steps needed for the immediate implementation of this measure within two weeks and to submit draft laws in this regard when necessary.

2. To accelerate the formulation of a law on construction violations, which has already been referred to the parliament.

3. To speed up the formulation of the law on ending violations and transgressions against state-owned maritime facilities and the collection of fines due in this regard and another law on determining annual fees for the licensing and rental of such facilities.

4. Considering that the road taxes on cars range between 2,500 and 15,000 Lebanese pounds, it has been decided to increase these fees and instruct the interior minister to prepare a draft law determining the percentage increases in accordance with the size of the vehicle's motor and other specifications.

5. To reduce the income tax rates on individuals, organizations, companies, and independent professionals in order to encourage local and foreign investment. These rates will be decreased by 10 percent in the case of individuals, independent professionals, and family-owned businesses and by 12 percent for stock companies. The tax exemptions ceiling will also be raised.

6. To establish a new and unified basis for the real estate tax. Buildings will be assessed on the basis of their actual market value and not through linear projections.

7. To reduce some of the state's property in order to benefit from the resulting revenue.

8. To seek the formulation of laws on abolishing the immunity of government officials and judges. Bills to this effect have already been referred to the parliament.

9. To continue with the policy of reducing the expenditure for travel and participation in conferences.

10. To maintain a tight monetary policy and to limit the issuance of treasury bonds until the financial and currency situation stabilizes.

11. To continue the implementation of the measures ensuring the proper performance of the banking sector.

12. To develop the Beirut stock exchange and to authorize the finance minister to prepare relevant studies in this regard within one month.

13. To authorize the Bank of Lebanon to prepare suitable proposals for the administration and liquidation of certain real estate collaterals in return for providing the faltering banks with the required liquidity.

14. To expedite the construction of the commercial center of Beirut and the rest of the damaged areas.

15. To form a committee made up of experts Samir Maqdisi, Elie 'Assaf, Kamal Hamdan, Marwan Ghandur, Hasan 'Awadah, and Elie Yashu'i. The committee will be tasked with preparing a comprehensive and detailed study on the standard of performance of various public services so as to achieve the citizens' interests and contribute to economic development.

16. To replace the existing end-of-service compensation with an old-age pension system.

17. To expedite approval of the bill providing for the establishment of the economic and social council.

Syrian Withdrawal Said Backing Beirut Authority

NC2404082292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A responsible source at the National Defense Ministry has noted that the Syrian Arab forces' withdrawal from the airport and its vicinity is part of the relocation of these troops and seeks to consolidate the Lebanese legitimate government's bid to extend its authority, using its own forces, over all Lebanese installations and territory. The source added that the Lebanese Army now controls Beirut Airport and its vicinity.

The Syrian troops this morning [as heard] turned over their positions in and around Beirut Airport to Lebanese Army units backed up by the Army and Internal Security Forces already stationed at the airport.

Peace Talks Delegation Departs Without Shammas

NC2304130292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Lebanese delegation to the bilateral peace talks left Beirut for Washington via Paris today.

The delegation held a meeting chaired by Ambassador Suhayl Shammas before leaving. Shammas said: There is nothing new except that as a delegation, we follow up developments closely and prepare ourselves for any surprises.

The delegation left Beirut without its chairman, Ambassador Shammas, who stayed behind for health reasons. Shammas will catch up with the delegation later.

Flights To Libya To 'Continue'

LD2304172892 Tripoli JANA in English 1414 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, al-Tayr Apr 23, JAMAHARIYAH News Agency—The head of Syrian Airlines Control, Adnan al-Jabi, confirmed that air flights between Syria and the Great Jamahariyah will continue despite the stringent unjust NATO [as received] measures imposed on the Great Jamahariyah.

In a statement he made upon his departure from Cairo today, after taking part in the proceedings of the Arab Air Transport Union, al- Jabi said that the continuation in flights comes in line with Syria's firm and principled stance.

Reportage on Al-Asad Gulf Tour, Arab Unity

Reportedly Fears Western Action

NC2304115292 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Excerpt] Manama, April 23 (AFP)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad completed a tour of Gulf states Thursday to bolster Arab unity and ensure regional support if the West decides to turn on Damascus as it has on Iraq and Libya.

Al-Asad toured Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar—which form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—to prove to the West that Arab states can stand together, Western sources said.

"Mr. al-Asad fears that the West, after Iraq and Libya, may go after Syria," a diplomat told AFP, referring to U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad 20 months ago and on Tripoli this month.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union last year, Syria has moved closer to the United States but still remains on Washington's list of countries that allegedly support terrorism.

During his talks, the Syrian leader stressed the need to implement an Arab framework for cooperation outlined in the Damascus Declaration, which Syria, Egypt, and the GCC states signed in March 1991, days after the Gulf war ended.

"To avoid remaining isolated, he intends to work toward concretizing goals that the Damascus Declaration signatories set for themselves," the diplomat said.

In particular, the declaration calls for building an Arab military force with Egypt and Syria forming its backbone. [passage omitted]

Termed 'New Salvation Action'

JN2404071592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Leader al-Asad's Tour Is a Response to Challenges," AL-BA'TH says: Zionist propaganda, the Israeli organs, and those collaborating with them in the world, are launching a large-scale misleading campaign aimed at engulfing the whole Arab homeland in tragedy and subjugating the Arabs—in all their states—to unjust and serious resolutions.

AL-BA'TH says: It is known that Israel is occupying Arab territories, displacing millions of Arabs, and obliterating Arab cultural features in the occupied territories. AL-BA'TH asks: Has the international community adopted any resolutions against Israel?

AL-BA'TH affirms that President Hafiz al-Asad's tour of the Gulf states represents the beginning of a new salvation action. The Zionist intrigues have continued and the international community is preoccupied with sudden developments and events. The Arabs should, therefore, be aware of their position in these events and of their stands vis-a-vis them.

AL-BA'TH says that Arab fragmentation is one of the causes of apathy for the Arabs. It adds that seeking a remedy from other than Arab decisions increases flabbiness and collapse in the Arab ranks.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Hence emerges the great importance of leader al-Asad's tour as it is related to the call for moving from a state of fragmentation to a state through which the Arabs can face the decisive challenges, particularly the Zionist challenge.

Commentary Rejects Outside 'Solutions'

JN2304162692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's Gulf tour has generated the interest of Arab and world media, which is understandable considering his stature and considerable efforts to close Arab ranks and the high regard in which he is held. For over 22 years, al-Asad has dedicated all of Syria's resources to Arab causes and rights. It is, therefore, not surprising that his Gulf tour should have received such attention, when the Arab nation is experiencing especially difficult circumstances.

The Gulf crisis—created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—and its painful aftermath, have driven a wedge in the Arab body, which Israel made the most of to promote settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories and step up its repression of the Palestinian Arab people. To that end, it has capitalized on a global upheaval that swept away the Soviet-led socialist camp that for decades lent a hand to the Arabs' fair and legitimate struggle.

Under the circumstances, it is only natural that Syria should strive to stimulate Arabs into action, since the Zionist menace does not choose between this and that Arab country, and, at every turn, Israeli rulers state their

scorn for a fair peace and their resolve to establish Greater Israel and swallow up all occupied Arab territory. Only yesterday Shamir declared that the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights will forever remain Israeli territory, and that if the Arabs think that the American peace initiative will win them back any piece of this land, they must be laboring under an illusion. The director general of the Shamir government, Yose Ben-Aharaon, had the gall to state that the Washington talks set for 27 April must produce a peace pact with Syria short of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

There has been no letup in the construction of settlements to house hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants, and Israel has been altering the demographic composition of the occupied territory. Furthermore, the Zionist lobby in the United States, Europe, and the former Soviet Union is spreading lies and slanders to discredit the Arabs—especially Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians—with the objective of hurting their chances of acquiring defensive weapons. The Zionist lobby's attempt to obstruct the U.S. aircraft deal with Saudi Arabia, when Israel is stockpiling all kinds of conventional and nonconventional weapons, must be seen within this framework, as must the attempts by major world powers to clamp an embargo against Libya and punish its sisterly people.

President al-Asad has had an abiding faith in the Arab capacity to tackle challenges—a faith that has reflected itself in Syria's tireless efforts on behalf of potent and true Arab solidarity, and its spearheading of the effort to defend Arab causes.

As long as the Palestinian people are having to endure the oppression of the invaders, Arabs have no freedom or future. Arabs have no freedom or future as long as the Zionist enemy continues to act in an unrestrained manner and to aggress against Lebanon and to practice a scorched-earth policy. It is unforgivable that the present disarray in Arab ranks should continue. The Arabs have all that it takes in human and material resources to effect a national comeback. Their history and national aspirations should inspire them to close loopholes and rise to meet challenges.

President al-Asad has conferred with Gulf leaders to advance Arab solidarity, and to that end he will invest further efforts. Not a single Arab country is immune to danger, and only a united front and the pooling of Arab resources will avert such danger. The peace talks in Madrid and Washington have shown that only Arab force can make Israeli rulers see the light and honor UN Security Council resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy. Developments of the past few months have also demonstrated that the double-standard approach has yet to be abandoned, and that solutions inspired from outside the region are only illusions.

United States Reportedly Lifts Travel 'Ban'

NC2404065292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] AL-SAFIR newspaper's Washington correspondent has quoted sources in Washington as saying that the United States lifted the ban on travel by U.S. nationals to Syria. The sources added that this step, particularly its timing, could be interpreted as an attempt to respond to press reports and political speculations in the region that U.S-Syrian relations are likely to deteriorate further in the coming months.

Israel Plan To Bomb U.S. Plane Cited

JN2204161692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Damascus, 22 Apr (SANA)—A secret report presented to U.S. President George Bush reveals that Israeli intelligence was involved in a plan to bomb an American civilian airliner.

Radio Orient said today that this report is one of the reasons why President Bush took a hard line on the issue of granting the $10 billion loan guarantees to Israel.

Afghanistan

National Assemby Rejects Najibollah Decree

LD2304143392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1635 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Proceedings of joint session of the National Assembly's Wolasi Jerga and Senate held in Kabul on 22 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Assembly Secretary, reading out letter to the Assembly] Decree No. 63, dated 6 Hamal, 1371 [26 March] concerning the dismissal of vice presidents: In consideration of the recent developments which have taken place, and in line with the UN peace plan concerning the political solution of the question of Afghanistan, the following are to relieved of their duties as vice presidents: esteemed 'Abdol Rahim Hatef; esteemed General Mohammad Rafi'; esteemed 'Abdol Wahed Sorabi; esteemed 'Abdol Hamid Mohtat.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, under Paragraph 8, Article 81 of the Constitution of Afghanistan is to take its decision in this regard in the first session.

[Signed] Najibollah, the President of Afghanistan

[Passage omitted] [National Assembly president] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed Dr. Mahmud Habibi, esteemed members of Parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan. As you know, with the new political-military developments in our country, the Republic of Afghanistan is passing through the hardest days of its political history. These will have the greatest role in determining the present and future destiny of our society. [passage omitted]

Today's joint session of both houses of the country's parliament has been convened because the Parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan, not only as the highest legislative organ of the country, but as a place where the people of Afghanistan safeguards in this body its greatest and most valuable wealth and authority—that is national sovereignty—is carrying out its historical role in the great cause of national sovereignty of the country under the present critical situations in a responsible manner and in consideration of the high national interests of the people of Afghanistan. [passage omitted] It would have been necessary and naturally good, in our opinion, if in connection with matters of such great importance a Loya Jerga, which is the highest body reflecting the will of the people of Afghanistan in accordance with our national-historical traditions—however, in consideration of the speedy unfolding of situations, the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, in line with the last paragraph of Article 1 of the Constitution—is one out of two authorities empowered to enforce the sovereignty of the people. [as heard] [passage omitted]

Esteemed delegates, utilizing the authority emanating from the Constitution as explained above, I request you to study the following matters and take a decision:

1. To eliminate the current legal vacuum and implement Article 76 of the Constitution, the President's decree No. 63 should be rejected and one of the vice presidents, in consideration of all political and national reasons, should be appointed as first vice president and acting president taking over all powers of the president enshrined in Article 75 and other articles of the Constitution in observation of the articles of Chapter 5 of the Constitution and orders of other articles.

2. To take specific measures toward maintaining peace and the political and peaceful solution of the question of Afghanistan under the five point plan of the UN Secretary General and as the highest legislative body of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Assembly should put itself at the top of initiatives and measures concerning the process of implementation of this plan. The current events in our country should be urgently addressed by the UN Security Council. I repeat that the current events in our country should be urgently addressed by the UN Security Council.

3. Specific and practical measures should be taken toward the creation of practical intra-Afghan understanding with the participation of all concerned forces in the question of Afghanistan for the purpose of creating a temporary neutral administration, or one composed of representatives of all political forces so that not one of the jihad organizations and forces resorts to military pressure and intimidation for the purpose of taking power, in order to avoid giving new causes of bloodshed and inflicting fresh sorrows on our persecuted people.

4. [The Assembly should] request countries and international communities such as the United States, the Islamic and Arab countries, the Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other neighboring countries, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and other international forums so that, through utilizing their moral and material influence, they will help the Afghans immediately and in practical manner in getting out of the present difficult condition and assist them in the formation of an administration acceptable to the majority of the people of Afghanistan, the maintenance and guarantee of human, political, and civil rights of all citizens of the country, and the maintenance of an order based on democracy and the accepted norms in international law.

Esteemed delegates, these are the proposals which I have presented to the session in brief. I hope the above mentioned points and other decisions made by today's session will be reflected in an official statement of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan and be brought to the attention of all. With respect. [Passage omitted]

[National assembly president] Esteemed representatives of the nation, those who agree with the rejection of this decree, please raise their hands. Those against? No. Abstentions? No.

Therefore decree No. 63 dated 26 Hamal, 1371 [26 March] of President Najibollah of Afghanistan, which is

concerned with the dismissal of four vice presidents, has been unanimously rejected. [Passage omitted]

[Hatef, in Pashto] Esteemed Habibi, chairman of the Senate, esteemed Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jerga, dear senators and representatives. In these most sensitive moments, the common understanding which exists among you all, assures every one that, after 14 years of war and animosity, an understanding will be reached among the Afghans as witnessed in some provinces. The result of that Afghan understanding is that we have gathered here in the parliament. The worries people have at this moment, which are not out of place and for which evidence existed previously, [words indistinct] this understanding gives all Afghans the good omen that it is possible that the destiny of this ruined country be determined by understanding and peaceful means. The most important thing will be that as a result of our understanding, alien hands will be removed from our affairs. You will be aware that there was a desire as well as measures taken, undoubtedly sometimes shaky, that eventually the destiny of the country will determined by all its citizens through democratic means. We have approached all those concerned, particularly during the past six year, the Islamic countries, the Islamic Conference, Islamic heads of state and other world authorities such as the United Nations, that they should revert our affairs from intensification towards improvement. Of course, we are obliged to them. As you can see, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is almost as worried as the people of Afghanistan about the situation. Now and then you hear news that they too are extending assistance as much as possible in this regard and are even occasionally exerting pressure on them [the mojahedin] to take responsible steps for the peaceful settlement of problems in Afghanistan and to prevent more bloodshed and destruction. After many years you have seen that their planes transported wheat to our needy people as much as they could. Before anyone else they pledged 10,000 tonnes of cereals to the needy people in Kabul.

The fraternal country of Iran also puts out every day serious and decisive statements on the unity of Afghanistan and for the independence and integrity of Afghanistan; their responsible authorities respectively express their sympathy for our issues as a brother, or as a brother who is trying to solve his brother's problem. The United Nations which is the final place [words indistinct] and most authoritative forum, is paying serious attention to the issue of Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] Benon Sevan, as he himself says, travelled over one million kilometers during the past few days and held talks with over 20 Afghan groups and formations. The purpose of all his efforts is to work for the success of the UN plan. [Passage omitted]

So that they can form coalition governments, the mojahedin should come along and run the state apparatus; those Afghans who had emigrated to Europe, to the United States or other countries, they also should come along and jointly work out the shape of the future government. [words indistinct] The latest plan was that on the basis of a jerga, a provisional government will be empowered with running the state apparatus of Afghanistan. The mojahedin and all Afghans then should be asked to accept it.

However, subsequent developments were so fast that even we inside the country could not follow them. The rest of the world too could not predict the speedy changes in Afghanistan. Sometimes the people remain behind. Once it was thought that our Afghan brothers who are in Pakistan or those Afghans who are living in Iran, that they were waiting merely for the Iranian Government's hint; that those who are in Pakistan were waiting only for a hint by the government of Pakistan, that whatever hint was given them, they would do it. But now the true facts have become clear—that an Afghan wherever he lives is an Afghan [words indistinct]. Of course all those countries that have helped us in this respect, which is an enormous burden: Three million refugees living in the territory of Pakistan is not a simple matter; this may disrupt order and security and create problems inside the territory of Pakistan. Similarly, there are three million refugees in Iran. This is a very heavy burden, and we must be grateful for this. As a matter of fact they assisted these people in the war for the freedom of Afghanistan. This matter is recorded in history, we cannot deny it. We cannot change what is written in the history. Finally, we must appreciate most the assistance that encourages Afghans to sit together and with understanding find a solution for their problems by themselves without use of force or threat and work out an Afghan solution. However, the role of the United Nations can at no time be ignored or altered. [Words indistinct]. Without UN assistance we cannot solve our difficulties by our own means. Imagine, three million refugees will come home from Pakistan, and three million refugees from Iran; this is a huge figure. [Passage indistinct]

Occasionally the UN move may not correspond with our anticipation. It is possible that sometimes we cannot carefully see the obstacles the United Nations is facing in its task. However, one fundamental thing cannot be ignored even for a moment, that the United Nations is a very formidable organization and that it has many possible means at its disposal. Regarding our refugee brothers, despite the fact that we are very grateful to our neighboring countries, in particular to Iran which, without asking for our assistance, gave help by its own means, our refugees [word indistinct] are under UN protection, otherwise this would have been a very difficult question and the Afghans, God forbid, would have been treated (?disrespectfully). [passage omitted]

Once the plan was that 20-25 men but not more than 30 impartial Afghans whom no one would object to or would regard as having links with any side or partiality for any of the warring sides, they should have temporary power, should be set up [in power]; and then an impartial 150-man Jerga of Afghans should be formed inside or outside the country. Esteemed Najibollah, ex-president of Afghanistan agreed with this principle. It was not

merely his agreement alone. He consulted with all bodies and in consultation with them he even chose the wording of it; of course the United Nations also had a role in it. You saw the results [words indistinct] The president then announced his readiness to transfer the executive power to this council [word indistinct]. On this day the fate of the future system was determined. This was the final meaning of this process to a number of Afghans who were abroad whether in the combat formations or in the political opposition organizations, whose meaning now disappeared. [passage omitted]

I said before that the situation sometimes unexpectedly develops at such speed that one cannot follow it. We were unable to follow the recent developments which unfolded in particular in the military and political spheres; the United Nations could not follow it; the mojahedin could not follow it; even the people could not understand how to follow these events. [passage omitted]

I would like to thank you for the confidence you have placed on me once again . I pledge that during this limited period [words indistinct]. [Passage omitted]

National Assembly Appeals for Afghan 'Dialogue'

LD2304205992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] As our esteemed compatriots are aware, an extraordinary joint session of the houses of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan was convened on Wednesday, 22 April, to assess and examine the recent political developments in the country. At the end of the session, a statement was adopted by the National Assembly of Afghanistan, to which we draw your attention:

Statement of the National Assembly of Afghanistan, dated 22 April 1992.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Muslim, brave and free people of Afghanistan. As you are aware, recent developments in the political situation of the country, which constitutes the most sensitive moment of history in the present and future national destiny of our country, plays a great role toward the realization of the sacred aspiration of all its persecuted people, that is, an end to the 14-year bloody war among the Afghan brethren, ensuring long-lasting peace in the country and assured safeguard of the independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty and national unity of our ancient homeland, the beloved Afghanistan.

The new developments in the country give the good omen that the brave and free Afghan nation, in accordance with the will of God and blessed by Afghan wisdom and vigilance, inherited from their honorable ancestors, will certainly put an end to the incalculable sufferings of our persecuted compatriots [words indistinct].

The brave people of Afghanistan, compatriot sisters and brothers, the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, in the position of a house comprising representatives of the great majority of the people of Afghanistan and the [words indistinct] of the people of the Republic of Afghanistan, in view of the current developments in the political situation of the country, and by realizing its historic, Islamic and national mission in the present time, stemming from the great responsibility of representing the people, convened an extraordinary session on 22 April 1992, and by utilizing its legal authority, adopted historic and important documents in order to realize the provisions of the country's Constitution, to remove a legal vacuum in the leadership of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, and other issues connected with enhancing the role of parliament aimed at ensuring national reconciliation in the country with the participation of all relevant political forces to the Afghan issue and [words indistinct], informs the public of the following as the basic principles of the official stance of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan:

1. The National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan sincerely supports the inclination toward a wise, patriotic and Islamic stance by forces relevant in the Afghan issue, especially mojahedin brothers and famous mojahedin commanders, toward creating a national leadership based on an Afghan understanding and dialogue, the best and auspicious examples of which are the current talks and agreements among the commanders of mojahedin forces with the authorities of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan express their fraternal thanks and appreciation to the political leaders, commanders and all mojahedin forces for the creation of coalition administrations for the peaceful leadership of affairs in the provinces and localities of the country, and for the restraint shown by commanders of mojahedin forces in not carrying out armed attacks on cities and localities; and make a brotherly appeal to all those forces who have so far not joined this process to support this Islamic, national and humane experiment in order to respect the urgent demand of the absolute majority of the Afghan nation and the supreme interests of the beloved homeland.

2. The National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan expresses complete support the UN peace plan for a political solution of the questions of Afghanistan. It is a wise, practical and acceptable way for an absolute majority of all forces involved in the question of Afghanistan, including the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, the mojahedin organizations in Pakistan and Iran and their internal commanders, other Afghans inside and outside the country, and the international community to achieve and maintain peace and the cessation of hostilities in Afghanistan, and states its complete readiness for its implementation.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, while expressing gratitude to his excellency the UN Secretary General and his special envoy, His Excellency Benon Sevan who—tirelessly, and accepting a great

many problems—have continued their efforts toward the maintenance of peace among the Afghans, requests the Security Council of that organization, as a place with high international credibility, to urgently study the current events in our country and, through taking practical measures, help in the speedy implementation of the UN peace plan and the maintenance of peace in our country.

3. The National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan asks all member countries and forums of the United Nations, in particular the United States, Islamic countries, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other neighboring countries, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement and other international forums, by utilizing their moral and material influence, to take part in the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan and to help the Afghans in creating a democratic order based on Islamic, national principles and accepted international norms, which are the guarantor of well-being and political, civil and human rights of all citizens of our country.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan commissions the government of the Republic of Afghanistan to take necessary measures through diplomatic channels concerning the implementation of this statement.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly believes—relying on the will of God, and with the blessing of feelings of responsibility of all political forces, particularly the organized Mojahedin forces—that peace will be maintained in the near future in our country and the sufferings of the Afghans will be ended.

We wish greater strength from almighty God for our freedom-loving compatriots in this sacred path. Amen.

[Signed] National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan

UN's Sevan 'Pessimistic' on Speedy Agreement

BK2304114892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1136 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Islamabad, April 23 (AFP)—U.N. special negotiator for Afghanistan Benon Sevan said here Thursday [23 April] he was pessimistic about a rapid agreement between the Afghan mojahedin. "So far no one is prepared to make a compromise about Afghanistan," he told a group of journalists. Sevan urged all Afghan parties, which have Kabul encircled, to remain where they were and not to launch an attack, otherwise "it will be like a volcano." "Don't precipitate a disaster," he said. Sevan met with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Siddique Kanjoo, secretary of state for foreign affairs.

Arrest of 30 Pro-Najibollah Officials Reported

BK2304145992 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 23 Apr 92 p 1

[From Ansarullah]

[Text] Peshawar—Some 30 military and civilian officials of the former regime have been arrested by the four-men military council, which seized power in a swift military coup in Kabul on April 16, reported Al-Bunyan News Service quoting an officer of former Afghan army.

The arrested officials included Gen Azim Zurmathi, deputy national security minister; Gen Mohammad Omer, director general of military intelligence; Gen Asadollah Payam, director general Political Affairs Department in the Interior Ministry; Gen 'Azizollah 'Azizi, director general of the Crime Branch in the Interior Ministry; Gen Gurban, director of the Political Affairs Committee of Kabul City; and scores of other top military and Khad officers who resisted takeover in Kabul.

The Russian-educated Afghan officer who had been close to former Defence Minister Aslam Watanjar, before defecting to mojahedin in 1989, said that the attempted fleeing of Dr Najibollah and seeking refuge in the United Nations office in Kabul followed a very tense Cabinet meeting chaired by Najibollah himself on April 16.

He said that pro-Babrak Karmal and pro-Nabi 'Azimi members exchanged hot words with Gen Faruq Ya'qubi, the slain national security minister, over the affairs of Mazar-e Sharif accusing Nabi 'Azimi of striking a secret deal with the powerful mojahedin commander at the cost of the other members of Watan Party.

This reportedly infuriated Gen 'Azimi and before Gen Ya'qubi and Interior Minister Raz Mohammad Paktin could strike, Gen Nabi Azimi and forces loyal to Gen Rashid Dostom struck and in a quick move disarmed elite security troops responsible for the protection of Dr Najibollah Khan.

Efforts to call in reinforcements from the loyalists Presidential Guard, all important roads were blocked, Gen Farooqi was shot dead near the terminal of Kabul International Airport, while he trying to flee out of the city probably to India. [sentence as published]

Meanwhile, responsible mojahedin sources said that despite the best efforts of United Nations, the plane which was due to take off with Dr Najibollah on board, was still waiting for clearance from the pro-Rashid Dostom militiamen controlling Khvajah Rawash Airport.

UN Special Envoy Benon Sevan, who is camping in Kabul, is expected to accompany Dr Najibollah in his own car up to the airport if a safe passage was provided.

The Indian Government reportedly has reserved a suite for the Afghan President in a hotel in the diplomatic enclave of Safdar Jung in New Delhi. According to recent information Najibollah was still in Kabul.

Iran-Based Groups Urge Peaceful Solution

LD2304185692 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—The Vahdat-e Eslami Party of Afghanistan (Islamic Unity Party—IUP) which

is coalition of Iran-based Afghan mojahedin groups believes that the problem of Kabul should be solved "peacefully and without bloodshed," an IUP spokesman said here Thursday.

The spokesman, 'Abdul-Haq Shafaq, said "the survival of the ruling Kabul regime will not benefit the Afghan nation...The most important principle of the jihad (holy struggle) is to destroy Kabul rulers and establish an Islamic government able to create social justice in Afghanistan."

Shafaq was speaking at a press conference at the center for studies and research on Afghanistan, attended by the leader's representative for Afghan issue and Iranian and foreign newsmen.

The IPU spokesman made it clear that any agreement (on the issue) should be endorsed by all Afghan mojahedin organizations and that an agreement hurting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan is condemned.

He urged the governments of the Islamic republics of Iran and Pakistan to help mojahedin until a broad-based government accepted by all Afghan people comes to power, and also to contribute to the reconstruction of the war-torn country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ibrahimi, the leader's representative for Afghan issue, said Islam is the only factor that can keep the Afghan society united and around which all groups and parties of various ethnic background can gather together.

He said "the Afghan people should rely on themselves and not miss the golden opportunity they have seized." He also warned that hegemonism of certain groups and currents would finally hurt the interests of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

Head of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan (the Islamic Society of Afghanistan) bureau in Tehran read a statement saying that his party has not pursued one-sided policies nor will it act unilaterally in matters relevent to the sovereignty of that country.

He reiterated that the Afghan guerrillas under command of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud who are besieging Kabul will not conquer the Afghan capital unless they receive a unified order from their jihad command council.

Mojahedin Statements, Activities Reported

UN Plan 'Overtaken by Events'

BK2404053492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0511 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By Sami Zubayri]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 24 (AFP)—Diplomatic and political activities intensified here to clinch an accord for a new government in Afghanistan as U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali was due in Pakistan Friday.

The original U.N. plan for transferring power to a 15-member council of neutral Afghans has been overtaken by events, said a spokesman for Jam'iyat-e Eslami whose commander, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, is camped with his forces north of Kabul.

But so far the search for a new formula acceptable to the divided resistance factions has not been found.

U.N. envoy Benon Sevan, top Pakistan diplomats, an Iranian envoy and other emissaries are all putting pressure on the resistance leaders to come up with an accord quickly to avoid bloodshed in Kabul.

Sevan, who returned to Islamabad Thursday after a week-long stay in the Afghan capital, has seen the U.N. plan crumble as president Najibollah was swept from power and rival rebel factions encircled Kabul.

"No one is prepared to make a compromise," he told journalists.

Reliable sources here said about half a dozen proposals for a settlement have been discussed over the past 10 days.

The closest the resistance came to agreement was for setting up a 35-member mojahedin government, the sources said. Each of the many resistance factions was asked to nominate one political and one military figure.

The leaders agreed on 28 of the 35 names put forward.

But then radical leader Golboddin Hekmatyar of the Hezb-e-Eslami expressed "reservations" over seven names, claiming leaders had nominated their sons or sons-in-law.

His faction then suggested a proportional representation system that would give five seats to the Hezb, four to Jam'iyat, three to Harakat Enqilab Eslami of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi while all other parties would be given one seat each.

This time Jam'iyat rejected the proposal as "unfair and unacceptable," the sources said.

Moderate factions then proposed dividing ministries among the factions by reviving the dormant resistance government-in-exile, known as the Afghan Interim Government, but this proposal was also turned down.

Proposals for a council of military commanders to take over Kabul were also rejected.

Other suggestions included appointing a "council of wise men"—if the factions could agree on candidates—or handing over power briefly to moderate Ulemas (religious scholars) pending elections.

Late Thursday the leader of fundamentalist Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Pakistan, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, who was in touch with both Mas'ud and Hekmatyar, said an agreement was imminent, without giving any details.

But U.N. envoy Sevan said agreements signed in the morning disappeared in the evening. "They are written

with invisible ink," he told reporters deploring the deep divisions between the rebel factions.

Some people are pursuing their own way, he said, an implicit reference to Hekmatyar who has massed his mojahedin in south of Kabul to storm the city if the government forces did not give up by Sunday.

"If there is no agreement soon it will be disastrous," Sevan said.

Hekmatyar has already set a Sunday deadline for a transfer of power to the mojahedin. In the absence of agreement he has threatened to send his forces marching into Kabul.

Jam'iyat—Najibollah Must Be Tried

BK2304122692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] PESHAWAR, Pakistan, April 23 (AFP)—Deposed Afghan leader Najibollah must be put on trial as a war criminal, one of Afghanistan's main resistance groups Jam'iyat-e Eslami said Thursday [23 April].

"Najibollah is more criminal than the Nazis. He must be tried by the Afghan people," spokesman Najibollah Lafraie told reporters here.

He said the Afghan people opposed clemency toward Najibollah and objected to U.N. intermediary Benan Sevan's efforts to arrange his safe departure.

Najibollah is in a U.N. residence in Kabul.

When reminded that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Jam'iyat's top military commander, had offered to spare Najibollah, Lafraie said he was speaking in his personal capacity.

"Jam'iyat is against the U.N. plan to take him out of Kabul," he said, adding that Najibollah had refused the mojahedin offer of amnesty. "He resigned out of compulsion and deserves trial as war criminal."

Lafraie said mojahedin leaders involved in negotiations to form a government in Kabul were ready to meet with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali who arrives in Islamabad Friday.

Mojahedin were discussing various formulas for a future governing council in Kabul and believed an understanding could be achieved. But he said if negotiations failed Jam'iyat would take the matters into its own hands.

He believed the mojahedin of Golboddin Hekmatyar would would accept an agreement reached among various factions not to attack Kabul. Hekmatyar has threatened to storm Kabul on Sunday unless a mojahedin authority is in place by then.

Lafraie said the Kabul regime had agreed to give power to the mojahedin and "if some people attacked Kabul it will be sheer wastage of life."

Hekmatyar—No Revision of Ultimatum

BK2404072092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Islamabad, April 24 (AFP)—The faction of Afghan rebel leader Golboddin Hekmatyar denounced Friday [24 April] what it called "international conspiracies" trying to prevent the rebels from entering "victoriously" into Kabul.

Hekmatyar has no intention of revising his ultimatum for the Kabul Government to surrender by Sunday, a spokesman for his radical Hezb-e Eslami faction was quoted as saying by the group's AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA).

"There will be no resistance or bloodshed," the spokesman adeed. "The mojahedin prefer to defeat the international conspiracies about Afghanistan and want to enter victoriously into Kabul city."

The Hezb did not make clear to which international pressures he was referring to, but the United Nations special envoy on Afghanistan Benon Sevan, as well as the governments of Pakistan and Iran, have urged the rebels to work out an agreement and spare Kabul.

Hekmatyar, whose forces are south of Kabul, has threatened to attack the city unless the government there surrenders by Sunday.

Hezb elsewhere issued a virulent diatribe against the British Broadcasting Corp., calling BBC radio the "a mouthpiece of the Zionists."

Hekmatyar's faction said the BBC had "distorted" remarks Thursday evening by Hezb commander 'Ustad Farid, who denies having said that he would not attack the Afghan capital.

ANA said Farid had said that wherever the mojahedin advanced the government forces surrender without resistance.

Hekmatyar 'Compromise Formula' Rejected

BK2404075492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] An agency report says that the authorities in Kabul have rejected the compromise formula on an interim council proposed by the Hezb-e Eslami leader, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar. The forumla proposed that neither Mr. Hekmatyar nor the moderate mojahedin leader, Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, should serve with the interim council charged with the responsibility of holding elections within a year.

A PTI report says a number of rockets landed in the Afghan capital this morning, causing injuries to some people. The incident came as deadline set by Hekmatyar for the withdrawal of Mas'ud forces from around the capital expired.

Mas'ud on Pakistan, Hekmatyar

BK2304105292 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 23 Apr pp I, II

["Exclusive" dispatch by THE NATION's special correspondent in Kabul Ahmad Rashid]

[Text] Charikar—A Mojahedin Commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud said on Wednesday [22 April] that he hoped that Pakistan would continue to help the peace process in Afghanistan in future.

Speaking to THE NATION at his headquarters in Charikar, 35 miles north of Kabul, he said that he had never spoken directly to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and neither has the Prime Minister made any attempt to contact him although he had spoken to other Pakistani officials. He refused to name them but most likely they are military officials in Peshawar.

However, Mas'ud categorically said that he still felt that Pakistan was helping Hekmatyar. I hope Pakistan will help the process of peace in our country and be constructive towards helping peace come, he said. However, when I read reports and Pakistani newspapers there are still definite signs that Pakistan is helping Hekmatyar, he added.

On Tuesday night, Kabul Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil addressed another press conference in which he gave no indication of which way the government was thinking. However, like Mas'ud, he said of Hekmatyar that "if Hekmatyar continues his aggression, it will lead to nothing but his further isolation not only from the mojahedin but also amongst his own commanders."

Mojahedin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has accused his main rival Golboddin Hekmatyar of being a warmonger who is threatening the peace process in Afghanistan. At the house of a merchant in Charikar, 35 miles from Kabul, Mus'ud finally met with the UN special representative Benon Sevan but insisted that only a mojahedin government could take over in Kabul.

As 2,000 guerrillas of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud group advanced to within miles of the northern suburbs of Kabul, Mas'ud himself held court at Charikar where senior Afghan Army and militia officers and other mojahedin commanders arrived to meet him. In a courtyard where almond and cherry trees blossomed and hundreds of armed mojahedin moved around, Mas'ud dealt with dozens of different requests, snapping commands to his well-disciplined officers who rushed out to convey his orders by wireless to other mojahedin groups across the country.

"It is easy for us to enter Kabul but we want to talk to other groups. I hope the mojahedin will be united in these sensitive conditions," Mas'ud said in an interview. Smiling often and looking remarkably relaxed despite the tension of the past few weeks Mas'ud charisma was clearly affecting every Kabul regime officer who came to shake his hand.

Mas'ud accused his main rival Golboddin Hekmatyar, the Pashtun guerrilla leader of being a "warmonger." Although admitting that some of Hekmatyar's guerrilla units were only 20 miles from the city to the south of the capital, he dismissed Hekmatyar's ability to capture Kabul. "If he had the forces to come into Kabul, he would have done it by now. His forces are too small," Mas'ud said. "The army will not fight against us but it will fight against Hekmatyar," he added, reflecting the growing unity between the Afghan army and Mas'ud forces.

Mas'ud dismissed appeals from the international community that former President Najibollah, who has sought refugee in a UN building for the past one week, should be flown out of Kabul. "Najibollah should stay in Afghanistan because his head belongs to the Afghan people. It is up to them to decide," he said.

Mas'ud then moved to the house of a local rice merchant where Mr Sevan arrived with a small UN entourage after flying in by helicopter from the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif. "The Najibollah issue is not essential. The most essentialid issue is to decide the fate of Afghanistan" Seven said before the meeting. Sevan said he welcomed Mas'ud decision not to march into Kabul and hoped that other commanders would also refrain from doing so.

However, on Tuesday night, it appeared that nobody was sticking to the UN demands that they keep to their positions, as guerrillas moved up closer to the capital. "I am sure that Hekmatyar will join the dialogue which is already taking place," said Sevan.

Mas'ud's insistence on an Islamic Government and his refusal to let Najibollah go has sunk the hopes of the UN to form a government of neutral figures and secure Najibollah's release. Sevan denied that there had ever been a UN plan to bring peace and that the UN role was now to help the Afghans decide their own future and their own government. On Thursday he will fly to Islamabad to confer with Pakistani officials and mojahedin leaders and also meet with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali who arrives in Islamabad on Friday.

Despite Mas'ud's efforts to unite the mojahedin, there is still complete disunity within their ranks. Mas'ud claimed that two key Pashtun commanders, Jalaluddin Haqqani and 'Abdol Haq, who operate from the south and east of Kabul and commanders who took the southern city of Qandahar on Tuesday, had joined the Mas'ud newly-formed Islamic Jehad Council, but it is still unclear whether these Pashtun commanders have really done SO or not. Although these Pashtuns dislike Hekmatyar, they are also deeply suspicious of the new council, which is dominated by Uzbeks and Tajiks. On Tuesday, the army and the mojahedin of Jalaluddin Haqqani Group formed a joint coalition for the control of the key Pashtun city of Gardeyz south of Kabul.

Pakistan expressed both its desperation and inability to bring the mojahedin parties based in Peshawar to come to any agreement when it issued a statement saying that Pakistan would come down hard on any party which

tried to attack Kabul. This was the first threat that Pakistan has issued to Hekmatyar who has been supported by Pakistan throughout the 13-year-old war.

The Kabul Government is willing to allow Mas'ud and his council to enter the city rather than Hekmatyar's men. Mas'ud said that acting President Abdorrahim Hatef's statement on Tuesday calling for mojahedin Government has fulfilled all the wishes of the mojahedin.

Mojahedin Advancing on Kabul

BK2304164892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Latest reports from Kabul say the mojahedin commanders have set up joint command councils in all provinces which have come under their control. Different Afghan tanzimats [organizations] in their press releases issued in Peshawar this evening have reported further advance of their forces to the vicinity of Kabul. Leaders of various Afghan tanzimats in Peshawar have been having more contacts to negotiate various formulas under their consideration to find a consensus for takeover of power in Afghanistan.

Talking to newsmen at separate news conferences in the city, they reported progress in their talks and said their contacts with all mojahedin commanders are under way to receive and review latest developments on the ground. They emphatically refuted that there were any differences on ethnic, linguistic, or parochial basis among any of the groups of mojahedin leaders or commanders. They said mojahedin leaders and commanders are united to remove remnants of foreign aggression and intervention in Afghanistan. Reports also say six generals of the Kabul regime have sent message to mojahedin groups that they were ready to surrender to them in Jalalabad. Meanwhile, another report said that Lashkar Gah, the capital on Helmand in southwest of Afghanistan, has fallen to mojahedin yesterday. According to reports from Afghanistan, Meymaneh city, the capital of Faryab Province on the border of Turkmenistan, fell to mojahedin yesterday. Meymaneh city was under the siege of mojahedin for several months. Most of Kabul regime troops with the militiamen have finally surrendered to mojahedin.

Mojaddedi To Head 51-Member Council

BK2404103892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1036 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 24 (AFP)—Afghan resistance chiefs Friday [24 April] agreed to form a 51-member council to take over power in Kabul, a guerrilla news agency said.

The council would be headed for two months by moderate leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the Afghan Islamic Press said.

Quoting the Hezb-e Eslami faction of Yunes Khales, the agency said the council would have a tenure of two months, during which it will take over administration of Kabul and military and other installations throughout Afghanistan.

After two months, another council identified as a "leadership council" will be formed for a period of four months which will be presided by Borhanoddin Rabbani of Jam'iyat-e Eslami, it said.

The prime minister will be from Hezb-e Eslami of Golboddin Hekmatyar faction, the agency said.

During the second four-month phase, no party chief will head any government department, but to run day-to-day affairs the prime minister will have three aides.

The Interior Ministry will be run by an aide belonging to Rasul Sayyaf's Etehad-e Eslami. The Hezb-e Eslami faction of Yunes Khales will run the Education Ministry and foreign affairs will be looked after by an aide drawn from the National Islamic Front of Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani.

Red Cross To Limit Activities in Afghanistan

LD2404024292 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 2200 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The All-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has decided to limit its activities in Afghanistan one day after an ICRC worker was killed by a rebel. An ICRC spokesman in Geneva said the Committee's work in the Afghan capital, Kabul, would be scaled down and suspended ("elsewhere) in the country. He said around 20 ICRC workers would be evacuated from the country in the next few days, leaving a team of 40 in the capital to help run the ICRC hospital there.

Reports on Military Actions; Towns Surrender

Planes Ready To Attack Hekmatyar

BK2304161992 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Apr 92 pp 1, 16

[From Shaheen Sehbai in Kabul]

[Excerpts] Kabul, April 22—Apparently loaded with their arsenals, Afghan planes are waiting at Kabul Airport with their crew standing by to take off and pound the Hekmatyar and other mojahedin positions, if the present round of negotiations breaks down.

The planes were visible, standing in line with the pilots and other men basking in the April sun, after four days of heavy rain in this capital city where momentary peace looks like the lull before the coming storm. [passage omitted]

"The Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Rabbani and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have assured the government in Kabul that they would not move towards the city and our armed forces are fully capable of defending the city," [Kabul Foreign Minister Saradar 'Abdol] Wakil said.

Any military offensive on Kabul would disrupt the peace process of the United Nations, Wakil said in remarks that seemed to revive his faith in a peaceful transfer of power.

Wakil said...groups, tanzimat, have joined hands against further bloodshed and war and "we ask Hekmatyar to join the process." [passage omitted]

Asked whether the Mojahedin had provided him any guarantee about his own and safety of other leaders, Wakil said the safety of individuals was not important. "We want to bring peace and sanity to the country and it is the responsibility of all of us that this process is not hampered," he said.

Journalists who visited the northern positions of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud on Wednesday said his forces were taking up strategic positions to block any direct offensive by Hekmatyar.

Wakil did not deny the movement of troops some five miles off Kabul but said it was the forces which had promised not to attack the city.

Tehran Reports Shooting in Southern Kabul

LD2304105592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Telephone report from Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul—recorded]

[Text] Mr. Benon Sevan, the UN special envoy on Afghan affairs, left Kabul this morning. He did not announce where he was going before leaving Kabul, but it is said that he is bound for Islamabad. He has been in Kabul since last week. Following his talks with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud yesterday, in the city of Charikar north of Kabul, Mr. Sevan described his talks as reassuring and he expressed optimism about the coming efforts for the establishment of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

This is at a time when the situation in Kabul has been calm and daily life is proceeding with shops and offices open. Also, various groups and parties in Kabul have issued communiques that are being broadcast by Kabul's radio and television stations calling for calm and a peaceful transfer of power. The communiques also invite those groups that are threatening the security of Kabul to cooperate in establishing tranquillity and preventing bloodshed.

Also, in continuation of the efforts and talks to solve the problem of Afghanistan, General Rafi', one of the vice presidents, is conducting talks with Golboddin Hekmatyar in Lowgar.

Meanwhile, today the sound of shooting could be heard in the southern regions of Kabul. Several Kabul residents, speaking to the news team of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed delight at the victory of the Afghan mojahedin but hoped that the future of Afghanistan may become clear as soon as possible and that the transfer of power will be carried out peacefully and without bloodshed.

All the same, there are some crucial days ahead for current developments in Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan are impatiently waiting for the successful outcome of present efforts leading to the formation of a popular government based on Islamic law.

Herat 'Calm' After 'Liberation'

LD2304184892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] According to the latest reports from Afghanistan, one week has passed since the liberation of Herat, and the situation in that city is calm and life goes on normally. An Iranian radio correspondent sent to Afghanistan reports that at the moment the 30-member council of various mojahedin groups, some committed local dignitaries, and several military commanders, controls the city and has appointed new officials to important departments, such as the general governorate, the municipality, airport, radio, and television. Most departments, the bazaar, and shops are open, and through the efforts of the mojahedin the general condition of the city has improved and the blackout hours have been decreased.

Regarding the issue of unity between the parties and groups, it must be mentioned that the quality and method of running the city and the normal nature of the current situation indicate a significant alliance between various Islamic groups. One of the main commanders of Afghan jihad told our correspondent that in Herat now the coalition of mojahedin must be used instead of various groups.

According to the report, all the sentry posts, barracks, and bases affiliated to the Army or paramilitaries which have been under government orders in Herat Province are at the moment in the hands of the Afghan mojahedin.

Mojahedin Take Nangarhar Capital

BK2404025892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the Nangarhar governor and corps commander handed over the administration of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province, to mojahedin yesterday. According to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY the mojahedin have assumed the control of the city. They have also taken over all military installations and weapons.

Mojahedin Capture Maymaneh

LD2404101192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Afghan mojahedin announce that in continuation of their operations to liberate that country's cities, the jihad forces freed the city of Maymaneh, the provincial capital of Faryab. According to the same sources, during

the liberation of Maymana, which took place after months of blockade, the mojahedin also took over the control of its military and security bases. Also following the surrender of a large number of the Kabul regime's military personnel, the jihad forces seized their armored vehicles and heavy and light weapons.

India

Russian Technology Transfer Contract Said Valid

BK2304164292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister has told the Lok Sabha that the contract for transfer of rocket technology from Russia has neither been suspended nor canceled. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the Russian side had only informed New Delhi that they want a poll in the implementation of the contract for further technical discussions on the subject. Intervening in the discussion on the demand for grants for the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Rao said that the secretary of the Indian Space Department, now in Moscow, has informed the government that there appears no insurmountable difficulty in overcoming the problem. Giving details of the offer, Mr. Rao said that India accepted the offer of Glavcosmos of Russia for supply of cryogenic engines and related rocket technology as it could cost only 235 crore rupees against the French Ariane Space offer of 710 crores. He (?disclosed) that the Russian offer will enable India to achieve geostationary launch vehicle capability within five years with less risk in the program. Mr. Rao said that India always has the alternative to develop the technology it requires though it may entail a higher cost and longer duration. He said the government is determined to continue this.

Replying to the debate, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said of late, the United States has been supporting India's stand on the issue of terrorism. He called for strengthening the Nonaligned Movement politically and economically to fulfill its agenda. Detailing the country's relations with its neighbors, Mr. Faleiro said despite out best efforts, the relations with Pakistan are not very good. He said there was a steady and positive momentum in our relations with China. Mr. Faleiro said there is no dilution of the country's support to the cause of the Palestinian people.

Several members expressed concern over the United States emerging as the unipolar power after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and urged the government to reshape its foreign policy in the changed situation. They expressed the need to strengthen relations with neighboring countries. Some members suggested that the Nonaligned Movement should be strengthened to raise the voice of the Third World.

Benon Sevan Arrives in Delhi To Brief Ghali

BK2404091892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A report just received says the UN special envoy to Afghanistan, Mr. Benon Sevan, is in New Delhi to brief the United Nations Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali about the situation in Afghanistan.

Hotel Bomb Blast Injures 12 Foreigners

BK2404040692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] In Central Delhi, 14 persons, including 12 foreigners, were injured in a bomb blast in a hotel in Paharganj area last night. The police suspect the explosion was triggered off by a bomb with a time device. Central forensic science experts visited the area late last night. The security in the capital has been beefed up.

Iran

Statements, Reportage on Afghanistan Events

'Any' Popular Government Backed

LD2304124692 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 23, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will back any government in Kabul that is endorsed by the Afghan Muslim people, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Thursday.

"After 13 years of resistance to countless crimes committed by the ex-Soviet installed rulers in Kabul, the great people of Afghanistan are now on the verge of liberating their country from the clutches of Najibollah's deposed regime," Velayati told reporters.

On return of Afghan refugees living in Iran to their home country, Velayati said when the situation in Afghanistan becomes normal the Islamic Republic will do its best to facilitate the refugees' repatriation.

Elsewhere, he said, upon an initiative of the Islamic Republic, a final round of peace talks aimed at establishing a permanent ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia would soon be held between the belligerent sides.

"In this round of talks, the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia will hold face to face talks in the presence of an Iranian delegation and we hope with production of favorable results a permanent peace will be established in Karabakh," Velayati pointed out.

Forced Repatriation of Afghans Denied

LD2304162792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, in an interview with our television center in Mashhad, has congratulated the recent Afghan mojahedin victories. He

once again stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the Afghan people and the mojahedins' struggle for setting up an independent Muslim and popular government in Afghanistan.

The Central News Unit reports that the foreign minister, while describing the present Afghan conditions as most important and crucial, said: contrary to some views, in which bloodbaths were predicted to come after the toppling of the Kabul regime, thank God, by dint of the adroitness of the commanders, leaders, and sympathetic politicians who are accepted by the people, nothing adverse has happened thus far. The ground for setting up a popular government is being prepared.

The foreign minister also considered the possibility of foreign interference in Afghanistan to be nonexistent. On the status of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, leader of the military faction of the Afghan Jam'iyat-e Eslami, and the manner of his coordination with Afghan jihad groups, he said:

[Begin Velayati recording] So far, Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has shown a great deal of adroitness and wisdom, whether in resistance... [pauses] Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud showed the greatest resistance in the arena of Afghanistan and was famous among friend and foe as the Lion of Panjshir Valley. The former Soviet soldiers were never able to take the Panjshir Valley. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's leadership of the mojahedin and their struggle in the Panjshir was brave, and at the same time adroit and wise. Therefore, he has a very good record of resistance. At the moment, when it is time to make political and most crucial decisions, you see that he shows proper adroitness and wisdom. We endorse him and anyone else who cares for the people of Afghanistan. [end recording]

At the end of the interview, our country's foreign minister denied rumors regarding the forced repatriation of Afghan refugees in Iran and said that because everyone loves his own homeland more, if conditions are right, the Afghans living in Iran will return home.

Sevan—Kabul Ready To Transfer Power

LD2304153292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Benon Sevan, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Afghan affairs, in a meeting with our country's Foreign Ministry director general, announced the Kabul regime's readiness to transfer power to a council made up of all mojahedin groups. According to a Central News Unit report from Islamabad, in the meeting which took place in Islamabad this evening, Mr. Sevan presented a detailed report on his one-week stay in Kabul and his meetings with high- ranking officials of the Kabul regime, as well as with a number of Afghan mojahedin leaders in other cities, and he voiced his joy at their cooperation toward finding an early resolution for the Afghan problem.

Also in the meeting, Mr. Sevan expressed his gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] for cooperating and coordinating its efforts with the United Nations.

In the meeting, our country's Foreign Ministry Director General Mir Mahmud Musavi expressed his concern over the military activities of some groups which threaten Kabul. He said: The IRI has employed all its efforts toward preventing large-scale bloodshed in Kabul, to which end it supports the efforts of the UN secretary general's special envoy. Mr. Musavi added: Iran hopes that all the other countries concerned, especially Afghanistan's neighbors, will in view of the sensitivity of the situation refrain from taking unilateral actions and assist the UN secretary general's special envoy in efforts to control the situation.

Afghanistan Could Become 'New Lebanon'

NC2404094092 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Apr 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Historic Opportunity for Mojahedin"]

[Text] Events in Afghanistan have taken an accelerated pace. Kabul is about to fall, while the other major cities in the country have already been occupied by the Mojahedin.

The UN Secretary General's Special Envoy Benon Sevan is in Kabul, trying to bring the chaotic situation to a peaceful settlement. But it should be conceded that he faces an exceptionally tough job.

The point is that Benon Sevan had not prepared his plans for the type of situation which now prevails in the country. And in our opinion there is very little hope of reaching a peaceful, UN-supported resolution in this war-torn country.

In view of the recent developments, it would seem that peace and stability in Afghanistan are now entirely dependent on the type of measures the Mojahedin will take. Mojahedin now have an exceptional opportunity to become the architects of their destiny, and the world is waiting almost anxiously to see what degree of political maturity they will exhibit at this momentous and historic juncture.

The experience of 13 years of armed crusade has taught them to prevent further bloodshed and devastation. With the self-restraint and equanimity that is expected of true revolutionaries, Mojahedin should give thought to the fact that Afghanistan is actually among the poorest nations of the world. Apart from the deep-rooted and long-standing poverty, most of the country's infrastructure facilities have been destroyed during the 13 years of the bloody civil war.

The end result of the struggle for power is unlikely to be proportionate to the military advantages acquired in battlefields. Rather, the most enduring and rational arrangement is apt to be worked out at the negotiation table. And it is certainly preferable to engage in negotiations today beside a half-ruined Kabul, than on the ashes of a totally devastated capital at a later date.

Mojahedin should specially bear in mind that under contemporary world relations no country is prepared to

give financial assistance and grants for the reconstruction of a ruined country without some ulterior motive. And in fact many foreign hands are now at work to drag the various military groups in Afghanistan into a full-scale civil war.

This should also serve as a reminder to our decision-makers in the foreign policy sphere to beware of getting bogged down in a political mire with unpredictable results.

Turning Afghanistan into a new Lebanon is a dangerous snare where in Iran could squander its otherwise constructive potentialities. Iran has already paid a heavy cost for what has been going on in Afghanistan in the past 13 years. But she is still prepared to extend necessary assistance for the achievement of peace and stability in Afghanistan, and it is hoped that other powers involved in the Afghanistan affair will do the same.

Reportage on Kurdish-Iraqi Strife

PUK Reports Heavy Shelling

LD2304121992 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Mahabad, W. Azarbaijan Prov., April 23, IRNA—Iraqi forces have kept the two Kurdish populated areas of "Kifri" and "Nojol", north of Iraq, under heavy artillery fire, announced radio of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan [PUK] Thursday. The radio, monitored here, added the shelling has caused massive damage and casulties without specifying the time of the attacks.

In retaliation, the Kurdish peshmergas opened artillery fire on troop concentration areas in "Garmian", in the same region. The Iraqi Army has recently directed its large-scale attacks on Kifri and Nojol, said the radio.

Kurdish Areas Under Iraqi Fire

LD2304173292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to an IRNA report, the Hur-Nasariyeh District in southern Iraq came under heavy shelling for a few hours during the early hours of yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] has announced that during the past few weeks, Iraq's military forces have arrested over 4,000 Muslims in the cities of Basra, al-'Amarah, and Nasariyeh. Also the Iraqi Army has once again shelled the Kurdish populated areas of Nujul and Kafra, as a result of which the inhabitants sustained some casualties and damage. [passage omitted]

Helicopters Bomb Nojol Region

NC2304140392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1530 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Two Iraqi helicopters have bombed the Nojol region in Iraqi Kurdistan. This was reported by the Homeland Radio in Iraqi Kurdistan today. The radio said: Significant damage and loss of life has been caused as a result of the Ba'thist attack.

The same radio reported that the Iraqi military units also attacked several areas in al-'Amarah and killed a number of people with artillery units and tanks. The radio reported, however, that the resistance of the people forced the Iraqi forces to retreat from the region. According to the radio, 100 Iraqi troops were killed and three tanks and four military vehicles were destroyed.

The radio later said: Several houses were destroyed and many people were left homeless as a result of the attacks on the (Karah Khasan) and (Karah Incir) towns by the Iraqi troops.

*Guard Allegedly Seizes Azerbaijan Facilities

92P40177A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Reports from Tehran mentioned yesterday that units of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard seized several vital installations in the Nakhichevan region of the former Soviet Union. The installations include a hydroelectric power project and a railway station located on the other side of the Aras River.

Official sources declined to confirm or deny the news. However, they conceded that "certain precautionary measures" were taken in order to protect the railway station in the border town of Dehulfa from "irresponsible elements" in view of the fact that more than eight percent of Iranian imports pass through Dehulfa station annually. The sources also mentioned that units of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard seized the common Iranian-Soviet area that include a portion of the water and power projects in the Kyzyl Kyshlak District along the Aras River.

Nakhichevan is legally considered part of the newly independent Republic of Azerbaijan, except that it is separated from Azerbaijan by Armenian land. Armenia claims parts of Nakhichevan, and armed Armenian bands have for some time attacked villages along the border.

The reports mentioned that a force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard numbering 300 fighters, carrying light arms and short-range missile launchers, surrounded the border town of Dehulfa, seizing it and the railway station without a fight over a week ago.

It is not clear whether the Iranian intervention was done in agreement with the local Nakhichevan authorities.

Nakhichevan's population of 600,000 is 95 percent Muslim. It was ruled by a group that was previously strictly Leninist. The leader of the group was Haydar Ali Zadeh, alias Gaydar Aliev, who had been an officer with the rank of general in the KGB. He was deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union and a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party until Gorbachev removed him in 1988.

Last year the 'Ali Zadeh group organized a so-called "referendum on independence" and declared Nakhichevan "an independent state with sovereignity." However, the Azerbaijani authorities in Baku did not recognize Nakhichevan's unilateral independence, while Turkey and Iran did not respond to Zadeh's request for diplomatic recognition of Nakhichevan.

In addition, Armenia intensified its campaign to annex this Muslim area.

Water and electricity projects on the banks of the Aras River supply Iran with five percent of its electrical power needs and hence are very important for the economy of Iranian Azerbaijan. The water also irrigates vast agricultural areas in the (Mujahan) plains. These projects were built during the Shah's reign at a cost of $80 million, but the sudden departure of Russian and Ukrainian technicians from the Soviet side of the border at the end of last year, according to experts, left the project in "an unstable condition." It appears now that Iranian technicians have seized the projects in their entirety along the border.

This Iranian move will no doubt create extreme concern in Turkey, which has a 30-km border with this Muslim pocket. The Nakhichevan Muslims, who are Shi'ites, speak a Turkic language that is close to that spoken by Turkey.

Tehran last month announced plans to expand the railway line in Dzhulfa, which is a commercial artery between Iran and Russia, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe. These plans include replacing other lines with Iranian internal rail routes that would make it possible for trains to go directly to Tehran, and then to the Iranian seaports in the Gulf.

Delegation in Britain To Discuss Bilateral Ties

LD2304204492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] An Iranian political delegation headed by the Foreign Ministry's director general for the West European affairs, Mr Asefi, has arrived in London on an official visit to Britain.

According to our correspondent in London the visit has taken place at the invitation of the British Foreign Office minister, David Gore-Booth.

The purpose of the visit is to review bilateral ties and the trend of normalizing the two country's ties in the wake of the resumption of their diplomatic relations.

Paper Views International Sanctions Against Libya

NC2404094692 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 92 p 2

[Editorial: "More Aggravation No Answer to Conflict"]

[Text] The imposition of an international arms and aviation embargo against Libya marks another milestone in efforts by the Security Council to go beyond words and take strong action to alter the behavior of a country. In doing so, the North African state has become the fifth target of the United Nations, after South Africa, Iraq, Yugoslavia and Somalia, to face sanctions even though there is much debate whether or not they prove successful.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati believes that the implementation of UN measures will not resolve the West's dispute with Tripoli and signs have been that the Libyan government is determined not to concede to the pressure. Speaking in China on Thursday, he said that rather the process of consultation should continue and from the very beginning, Tehran has said negotiations are the only answer.

It can be said that the imposition of sanctions against South Africa did not force the apartheid government to change its course and in the case of Iraq, the embargo was overtaken by military action to end its occupation of Kuwait. Similarly punitive measures have done nothing to alleviate the conflicts in either Yugoslavia or Somalia, where in the former UN peacekeepers are now being deployed and being considered in the latter.

Already the action against Libya is being considered to be widened to include an oil embargo and both Britain and the U.S., the instigators of the use of Security Council powers, have not ruled out resorting to military action. It would appear that such measures is only exacerbating the situation and taking a momentum of their own that could lead down a very dangerous path.

Whatever the rights or the wrongs in using the United Nations to resolve a legal dispute, and it is arguable that other channels like the International Court of Justice are more appropriate for the role, an ending to the dispute will seemingly have to be found by negotiations. Prior to the sanctions coming into effect, it appeared that progress was being made with Libya offering to hand over two of its citizens, allegedly involved in the Lockerbie air disaster for trial in a neutral country. Stepping back from the brink of more conflict to find a compromise can only suit everyone's interests.

MKO Attacks Show Group's 'True Nature' to West

NC2304144992 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Apr 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Monafeqin—More Disgraceful Than Ever Before"]

[Text] The apologies by most of the European and Australian countries for the terrorist attacks by the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] group against Iran's diplomatic representation in those countries and the announcement of heavy losses inflicted on the monafeqin in the attacks by Iran's fighter planes on the bases of their plots and sedition have given the incident a new dimension.

With the passage of time, the true nature of the monafeqin becomes more evident. Of course their filthy nature is already well known to our nation as well as to most other people, especially the Muslim people of Iraq. But Westerners, who for years have supported them even

though they were well aware of their lowly nature, were now forced to condemn the monafeqin.

The terrorist attacks on the embassies have eliminated all kinds of Western support for the monafeqin and European and Australian officials openly condemned their blind actions. Inspite of this, we cannot content ourselves with mere condemnation and on the basis of present laws and mutual relations, those responsible for the terrorist acts should be arrested and steps should be taken for their trial and punishment as well as their extradition. A number of the monafeqin already have criminal dossiers at the relevant Iranian courts.

Here it would be appropriate for Iranian representations to expose the nature of these lackeys to Western nations. It is certain that the revelation of their previous records and misdeeds will be able to open the eyes of these nations to the honesty of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which adheres to divine values and humanitarian norms.

When the aggressive monafeqin attacked the two tribal border villages at night and martyred people in their sleep, there is no room for any defense or support for them and they are condemned and cursed in every society. It is natural that all should understand the courageous Iranian Armed Forces' rightful and timely avenging of this attack. This is certainly not tantamount to a dispute with Iraq but was carried out on the basis of internationally recognized norms and for the defense of the nation, especially since earlier the necessary warnings had been issued to the Baghdad government with regard to the monafeqin in the clearest terms possible.

While the monafeqin's attacks on Iranian diplomats in the heart of Baghdad were going on, Iran conveyed its concern over the monafeqin's terrorist activities to the Iraqi regime but the Baghdad government's weak reaction indicated that other suitable levers should be employed to neutralize the monafeqin's plots, including the attack by the Islamic Armed Forces' pilots.

The monafeqin's furious and hasty reaction to this attack indicated that the toll of the blows dealt on the group was heavy and it was expected that the Iraqi regime will take the necessary measures to contain its activities, so that the monafeqin do not have any further opportunities to create trouble for Iranian citizens.

Paper: White House Crimes Will Not Go Unpunished

NC2304154992 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12 Apr 92 p 13

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States—Iran's Eternal Enemy"]

[Text] George Bush, whose visage is hidden in the White House, openly admitted U.S. support for the war crimes of the Iraqi regime during the imposed war. Addressing a session of editors of the press association in Washington he declared: In the course of the eight-year war Washington provided assistance to Baghdad solely for combating the government of revolutionary Iran and not as support to a legitimate democratic regime.

Even though U.S. leaders have admitted to the White House's unstinting assistance to Baghdad during the imposed war, George Bush's remarks in this regard are the last word in completing the dossier on the major U.S. crimes and the facts of the imposed war will be exposed for posterity.

These remarks and confessions do not leave any doubts or questions in the minds of the most wayward thinkers. During the course of the imposed war, Bush was Reagan's political deputy and did not express many opinions. Now that he has assumed responsibility for the massacre of women, children, and old and ailing people, he prides himself on being an accomplice of the Iraqi regime.

George Bush is so despicable that without any reference to Iraqi war crimes he speaks of combating the Iranian Government and puts his seal of approval on it. During the imposed war, in addition to heavy losses of life which cannot be assessed in material terms, material losses amounted to more than $1 trillion for the great Iranian nation.

Before the victory of the Islamic revolution, the United States, through its support of the tyrannical regime of the shah, affirmed its animosity toward Iran and in the aftermath of the revolution it further confirmed that it was the eternal enemy of the Iranian nation and wreaked more miseries on Iran by supporting the Iraqi regime.

It is regrettable that there are some who believe that coexistence with the United States is possible. The chevaliers of the White House bestowed honors on the criminal commander of the S.S. Vincennes and are now boasting of their support for Iraqi war crimes. Not only do they not express any remorse or shame for being party to such major crimes, they call it a correct and legitimate policy.

This is the spirit of the enemies of mankind who justify everything to safeguard their illegitimate interests. Alas for those who perceive such fangs and talons and still do not realize the truth. Anyone with an iota of conscience who reads the UN report on the losses during the imposed war, even if he does not have much knowledge of the events of the war itself, will never permit himself to support it. The White House was well aware of everything and even supplied information to Iraq so that the Iraqi regime could perpetrate these war atrocities more easily.

In any case, George Bush's confessions further document Iran's honesty and are clear proof for the alert nations of the world. The crimes of the White House will not go unpunished.

Musavi-Ardabili Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

LD2404103692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The religious and political rites of Friday prayers were held today at Friday prayer sites with the presence

of our God-seeking people all over the country today. In Tehran the people held that immaculate Mohammadan tradition, under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, through their presence at Tehran University and adjacent streets.

In the prayers sermons the acting Tehran Friday prayers leader said that despite conspiracies by arrogance and despite the fact that powerful forces have adopted positions against the Islamic revolution, Islam has been able to extend its righteous voice to the most far away places where Muslims live. He then said: Today God has placed golden opportunities at the disposal of Muslims. They must take advantage of these opportunities to take their own fate into their own hands.

Referring to the recent developments in Afghanistan and the liberation of Muslim-populated republics of the former USSR, where nearly 80 million Muslims live, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said: These regions are Islam's potential strength. To attain their economic and political independence the Muslims must create a power capable of standing up to Europe and America.

Warning against America's plots in the aforementioned regions, especially in Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, he said: Ours is a very dangerous enemy. He will not give up hatching plots against us. We must guard against so much calamity with utmost alertness.

In the first sermon of the prayers Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili offered condolences on the martyrdom of His Holiness Imam Ja'far Sadeq, peace be on him, and detailed the highlights of the fruitful life of that holy person. He also talked about the role which spirituality plays in human life. He then called on scientific and religious centers, newspapers, radio and television, and other cultural centers to strengthen spirituality among the people.

Reportage on Majles Role, Elections, Ministers

Mohtashemi Discusses Majles Role

NC2204203092 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 31 Mar 92 pp 4, 3

[First part of a two-part interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, Majles deputy for Tehran, by unidentified JAHAN-E ESLAM correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] Can you explain what power the Majles has?

[Mohtashmi] As embodied in the Constitution, the Islamic Majles is the second most powerful institution in the nation following the great leader of the revolution. The Majles decides the formation of the government. It appoints and dismisses ministers. The Majles approves bills. All government policies and programs have to be approved as bills by the Plan and Budget organization.

The government cannot do anything without the Majles; it would be illegal. The Iranian system is based on law and is opposed to dictatorship. [passage omitted]

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Here the question arises: Why did the Supreme National Security Council make a decision on relations with Britain when you just said that the government should coordinate with the Majles in everything?

[Mohtashmi] A member of the Supreme National Security Council and the Foreign Ministry said that the Majles had specified at what point relations with Britain were to be broken. It insisted that unless the British Government apologized about the Rushdie issue, the Foreign Ministry would be obliged to sever relations. The law was applied and the Foreign Ministry severed relations.

Following a series of statements and interviews by British Foreign Office officials, which were discussed at the Supreme National Security Council session, it was decided that there was no legal reason not to resume relations. Hence, the Supreme National Security Council, in view of the Foreign Office's remarks, approved the resumption of relations with Britain. All this is, however, is a justification allowing the Supreme National Security Council to be the decision maker. [passage omitted]

Further on Mohtashemi Interview

NC2204204992 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 6 Apr 92 pp 4, 5

[Second and last part of an interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Majles deputy for Tehran, by unidentified JAHAN-E ESLAM correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] What do you think the elections for the fourth term will be like?

[Mohtashemi] A precise forecast of what the atmosphere of the elections will be like is impossible because everything depends on how the Council of Guardians and the executive system for the elections act. If we do not have impartial and farsighted supervision committees from the Council of Guardians and the agencies in charge of the elections, if the Council of Guardians interferes in executive affairs, or if the people do not feel that the supervisory or executive systems are impartial and sincere, we will not have healthy elections.

In addition, we can expect the same to happen if the people are totally indifferent and believe that it does not matter whether they vote. If we have healthy and calm conditions in the fourth term, no unfavorable incident can take place before or during the elections and the people will come and cast their votes; however, if, on the other hand, the people feel that, God forbid, the atmosphere is not impartial and not free of spite, then we feel that adverse incidents will take place and the people will be indifferent to the elections. The same happened during the elections for the second term of the Assembly of Experts. This is what we foresee for the fourth Majles elections.

We are sure that, in view of the fact that the esteemed leader is sensitive toward the destiny of the country, he will intervene in any problems to prevent any type of carelessness by any institution, be it the executive or the supervisory. God forbid if conditions are such that the peoples views and wishes are ignored or if an atmosphere is created in which the people do not feel they can trust the candidates. Naturally the principals the people want their candidates to have are devotion to the principles of the revolution, to the path and views of the imam on supporting the oppressed and barefoot of the society, and to the safeguarding of the interests of the large part of the strata in the Majles. Such outstanding personalities have been seen both before and after the victory of the revolution, personalities who confronted plots by America and the West and foreign enemies. If these type of people do not exist among the candidates, naturally the people will be indifferent and the situation will not be good.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] The Council of Guardians has interpreted articles on its duty on the basis of the Constitution. The question that rises is why did it not continue doing what it has done in the past?

[Mohtashemi] I have said before that all the strata of people can express views on the various national affairs be they legal, political, or other. This is a definite right which the revolution, Islam, and humanity grant to each and every person. People have the right to freely express their personal and political views. This right has also been endorsed by the Constitution. Majles deputies and every person can express a view on affairs and use various arguments to prove their point. Within this context, we believe that the interpretation by the Council of Guardians was unjust and incorrect. [passage omitted]

After various legal and non-legal views were expressed and the matter was discussed from various tribunes by the two factions and was published in the press, the esteemed leader specified the views of the Council of Guardians on the basis of approbatory supervision. We accept the view of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult as the final word, and everyone else has too. Just because we accepted the ruling does not mean that we are satisfied with the arguments.

We have accepted his word as being final because he is the leader and everyone should accept his views and act accordingly. This is in regard to things that have taken place. As for the future and what should be done, I think that the Council of Guardians and the supervisory committees should prove that they deserve the favorable attitude that the leader has shown towards them. In other words, they should refrain from shortsightedness and from interfering in election affairs by imposing their views and wishes on various issues. They should display complete impartiality, otherwise they will create many unfavorable problems both for the country and for the system. In the Majles elections, the criteria is the peoples votes and not the votes, wishes, or intentions of election officials, be they in the executive or in the supervisory systems.

Disqualified Candidate Interviewed

NC2304132892 Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Apr 92 p 2

[Interview with Ayatollah Khalkhali, Qom deputy for three Majles terms, with unidentified SALAM correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [SALAM] On what grounds has your candidacy been rejected in the fourth term of the Majles elections?

[Khalkhali] I should say that this matter is rather hazy and on principle I do not know on what pretext it was rejected. The Council of Guardians is behind an iron curtain and it ties and unravels issues itself. In other words it is both the judge and the plaintiff and the curtain that it has drawn around itself is not in conformity with any norms of the law or shari'ah. We have repeatedly asked them to openly announce our crimes. Have we committed crimes, misdemeanors, burglary, pilfering? They have not answered a single question. Of course they have said that it is entered in two files, but no one has informed us or interrogated us in this regard. When they treat us like this, imagine how they treat the others.

Ayatollah Jannati, spokesman for the central supervisory committee of the Council of Guardians, explained at the Friday prayers and in an interview that the people against whom charges have been leveled have been duly informed, but to date I have not even been given written notification of the rejection of my candidature. I learned from the press and radio that my name was not among those accepted and as a last resort I sent a telex to Ayatollah Khamene'i that I have not been informed of the crime I have committed. I have not yet received any reply, even though I sent the telex on 2 April.

Ayatollah Jannati said that the task of the Council of Guardians is to judge candidates, which is correct, but when an individual's reputation is at stake and it is an important matter, it should be announced openly and without any reservations, at least to the persons concerned in case they may have something to say in this regard. Of course this has not been done only to me but applies to others as well.

Should not the people be told what crimes their deputies have committed? I openly declare that my only crimes are perseverance, courage, and being completely articulate in my open opposition to avaricious U.S. designs in the region. In brief, I have become the object of wrath because of my outspokenness. Of course, by excluding me from the Majles, the situation will not be according to their wishes and obstruction will continue.

[SALAM] Do the members of the Council of Guardians oppose such outspokenness on your part?

[Khalkhali] I should say that some of this opposition dates back to the era before the revolution. I have been opposed to the views of some of them and since some of them did not participate in the struggle and feel inferior they have resorted to maligning others and denigrating

the God-seeking strugglers to gain popularity, but they have not succeeded and have gotten hold of the wrong end of the stick.

We do not have any feud against them. It is a matter of lines and factions, but unfortunately the Council of Guardians follows the so-called rightist line. Not all of them are opposed to me, however, and only a minority are against me, including Khaz 'Ali. I have nothing against him, except regarding his contacts with Halabi [not further identified], whom the imam was vehemently opposed to. [passage omitted]

The members of the Council of Guardians are not aware that by rejecting me they have in a way, ridiculed the exhortations of the imam. The iman told me in a letter: I will never forget the trouble you have taken for the revolution.

The question is why have they acted so carelessly to please the fugitives in Los Angeles? [reference to Iranians abroad] Do the people not understand that there are hidden hands behind the scene that are deliberately or unwittingly misguiding the ignorant ones? There is no other reason. I have executed the idolatrous ones such as Hoveyda, Nasiri, Rahimi, Khosrowdad, Pakravan, and Moqaddam [members of the shah's government] and the heads of the Savak [secret police] and I have confiscated their property, but the remainder have fled from Iran. At the top of the student followers of the imam's line are Ibrahim Asgharzadeh, Behzadian, and Hedayat Aqa'i, who have been eliminated. Are they trying to strangle the country so that in the future their priority will be a compromise with the United States, the West, and South Africa and anyone opposing it should be sprayed with DDT so that a conducive atmosphere can be created? One of the candidates of the rightist faction was Kharijiani who said in an interview: The previous Majles was one of confrontation and the next Majles must be one of compromise.

[SALAM] Before this, how did they behave toward you during the elections to the Assembly of Experts?

[Khalkhali] In the second elections to the Assembly of Experts the situation was the same. They did not summon me and they did not warn me but they themselves were the headstrong plaintiffs as well as the judges. I mentioned this to Hashemi-Rafsanjani but he contented himself with merely expressing amazement. Even now I spoke to him and I mentioned the violations by the executive committee. In the presence of 12 others who had been rejected he said that this documentation was not enough and that on principle no one could be eliminated merely because he had not gained eligibility.

The idea behind all this, in light of such blatant violations, was that the Militant Clerics Association should not participate in the elections. But in view of the exhortations of the great leader and despite all the violations that continue, the association members decided to participate. I myself said that the disqualification was not important. What is important is that the right kind of person should enter the Majles and prevent most of the violations.

[SALAM] What was the attitude of the executive committee in Qom toward you?

[Khalkhali] I should say that we found out that the Qom executive committee is comprised of the rightist faction and the merchants, who have been opposed to me since the onset of the revolution. They all belong to the same line and have opposed me. [passage omitted]

On principle every accused person has the right to follow the process and the charges leveled against him. I know that I have been accused but I do not know why. I do not believe the charge on the basis of which I have been disqualified and the Council of Guardians is not giving any answers. They have seen how all their ploys have failed—they incited demonstrations against me in Qom and stated that I was against velayat-e faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult]—but the people of Qom are behind me and their designs had been foiled so they were forced to reject my qualifications.

Government-Majles 'Harmony' Viewed

NC2304150392 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Apr 92 p 2

[Editorial: The Fourth Majles and Elections"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The subject of relations between the government and the fourth Majles is important and it is necessary to appraise and note it here. Should the Majles be in harmony with the government? If so what is meant by harmony and what are its limits? Should Majles deputies affirm the independence of their views by competing with the government and adopt an attitude of displaying opposition? In such a case, what is the obligation of the system in the event of friction between the Majles and the government?

Should the Majles deputies affirm their goodwill toward the government through obedience and give a stamp of approval to everything the cabinet says and does? In such a case, will we not encounter problems and is this the right way? Or should the relationship between the government and Majles be different?

It is clear that the Majles as the legislative apparatus of the country has some specific rights, the extent of which has been spelled out in the Constitution. [passage omitted]

In fact, the idea that the Majles should have complete coordination with the government is erroneous. The correct procedure is that the Majles and the government should have mutual understanding and coordination and each should strive to create a feeling of reciprocal trust and thus capitalize on present resources and opportunities to the utmost, by consolidating a trustful and a more understanding relationship.

To achieve such coordination and mutual understanding a fundamental axis is necessary and fortunately there is much scope for common ground to guarantee joint coordination and understanding between the two. The Majles and the government enjoy the trust of the leader and the people and this is a major resource on which to build to valiantly traverse the vicissitudes of this turbulent world.

The government and the Majles consider themselves adherents of Islam and are considered followers of the revolution, the leadership, and the Constitution. The common aim of both is service to the people. The government and the Majles have the same malicious enemies, who are the enemies of Islam and the revolution all over the world.

These are the common factors that can foster mutual understanding and reciprocal trust between the government and the Majles and there will come a time when these common factors will be utilized to the maximum. [passage omitted]

The great leader of the revolution emphasized these points in his recent exhortations regarding the elections in which he asked the people to vote for those who are sincere, honest, and solicitous and who wish to serve the people. He clarified that those who throw a wrench in the work of the country's officials and do not adhere to piety or are not pious are not fit to enter the Majles. It is understandable that with its votes, the nation prepares the way for the practical implementation of the above.

Rejection of Deputies 'Dangerous' Trend

NC2304140692 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 5 Apr 92 pp 1,3

[Unattributed commentary: "Elections and Competence"]

[Excerpts] Even though the rejection of the competence of many of the candidates who follow the imam's line was conceivable, nevertheless it was 9ol hoped that following the directives that were issued by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the revolution, the national interests of the country and of the revolution would be taken into consideration and the hearts of the enemies of the revolution would not be gladdened as they were. It is perverse to want to blame just one or certain individuals. During the past few years mysterious hands have tried to resort to various means to cast the revolutionary thoughts of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader and the founder of the Islamic revolution, into oblivion. This creeping and dangerous process that is just now starting will undoubtedly not pity any of the followers of Islam and of the Islamic revolution; and those who have today become the captives of such temptations, either knowingly or unknowingly, will sooner or later become the prey. [passage omitted]

If we glance at the list of those whose competence has been rejected in Tehran and in the provinces we will see names of persons who stood out for their support for the revolutionary aspirations of Imam Khomeyni. Is this in line with the wants and aspirations of Imam Khomeyni? The fact that Radio Israel and the Voice of America could not contain their happiness that these candidates had been rejected should make us wonder how much longer we should be captive to temptations that do not benefit the revolution or the Muslim Iranian nation. [passage omitted]

By trying to resort to various means to render part of society inactive and to find a justification for this act, we are only fooling ourselves. The growth of capitalist ideas and the search for comfort that have led to unfavorable phenomena such as licentiousness, a cultural offensive, rising poverty, and backwardness actually speak of the start of a new era in the history of society. This cannot be a positive trend. Of course we should set a difference between those officials who are exerting tireless efforts to serve the people and to help the country's growth and those who are using these conditions to amass wealth. But society should be alert enough to see the mysterious and inauspicious hands that are moving behind the despicable process of capitalism. [passage omitted]

Gentlemen, let us be alert. Why are the children, brothers, and sisters who were once standing next to each other being placed against each other now? The great secret for the victory of the revolution was unity and support for the leadership. We should make unity, support for the pure thoughts of the imam, and support for the leader our slogans and prove these by deed as well as by word. Fortunately our people are extremely alert and understand the course of events and they are treading a path that ensures the revolution, Islam, and the Islamic republic.

'Efficient' People For Key Cabinet Posts

NC2404095092 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Apr 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Need for Cabinet Reshuffle"]

[Text] The results of the parliamentary elections so far would seem to indicate a definite victory for the moderates, although a considerable number of the candidates will have to prepare themselves for a close competition in the runoff elections.

Political observers, however, are of the opinion that the moderates are so confident of their ultimate triumph that they have already started naming their candidates for the presiding council of the fourth Majles. It is interesting to note that at the third term of Majles the moderates did not have a single representative in the presiding council.

From now on, and specially in view of the new political conditions prevailing in the country, the relations between the legislative and the executive branches will form the pivot of the political debates. It would seem that henceforth the government of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will have no problems with Majles. This concord between the government and Majles will cover

almost all political areas including selection of new ministers and the structure of the cabinet which is quite obviously in need of fresh blood and stronger driving forces.

Up till now any criticism of individual minister's lack of success or lack of managerial ability was countered by the remark that the ministers in question were protected by Majles and that the President's choices for those ministerial posts couldn't receive votes of confidence from the parliament. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, now confident of the victory of the moderate representatives in the fourth Majles, can replace the not so efficacious ministers with able managers of whom there is fortunately no scarcity. At the moment many of the ministries are considerably lagging in the implementation of the 5-year plan, and if the trend were to continue for two more years, the entire cabinet would face serious setbacks. It is urgently necessary that between now and 28th of May, when the fourth Majles will be convened, a careful and objective evaluation of the achievements of the various ministries is carried out. The results of such a survey would form a reliable basis for a judicious reshuffling of the cabinet and the injection of fresh blood into it.

The nation now expects President Rafsanjani, who is recognized as an able and courageous statesman, to appoint efficient people to important and key posts; for in view of the prevalent political and economic conditions and the shortcomings in the implementation of the 5-year plan, a re-structuring of the cabinet is highly in order.

Pakistan

Sharif Meets Sevan; Briefed on Mas'ud Talks

BK2304144892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The UN special representative on Afghanistan, Mr. Benon Sevan, who flew into Islamabad from Kabul today had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Benon Sevan briefed the prime minister in detail about the situation inside Kabul and his recent meeting with commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. He informed the prime minister that any government or council formed by the mojahedin parties can take over power in Kabul, filling in the dangerous vacuum that exists there. Mr. Benon Sevan also emphasized the need for mojahedin commanders to desist from taking any step that could trigger a fratricidal conflict. Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has assured Mr. Benon Sevan that he would not initiate an attack on Kabul.

The prime minister briefed Mr. Benon Sevan on the efforts made by Pakistan to bring about a consensus among the mojahedin tanzimat [orgnizations]. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif stated that it is Pakistan's resolve to promote peaceful transfer of power in Kabul and [it] will use all its resources and influence to prevent a conflict. For this purpose, the prime minister was keeping in touch with all relevant parties.

Sevan Urges Mojahedin To Be 'Flexible'

BK2304163992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Benon Sevan, UN special envoy on Afghanistan, addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, said Pakistan is making serious efforts to prevent bloodshed in Afghanistan and to find ways to bring about agreement among various Afghan parties. He said he met several commanders and political leaders and has felt that all of them want a political settlement of the issue and are serious about avoiding bloodshed and ethnic strife.

In reply to a question on whether he has brought any special message from commander Ahmad Shah Masu'd for the Pakistani authorities, Benon Sevan said he has brought messages from all the parties. The UN secretary general's envoy said he will visit Peshawar 26 April to exchange views with Afghan mojahedin leaders on the situation. Benon Sevan called on the mojahedin commanders and political leaders to adopt flexible attitudes and arrive at an agreement for the interim period and decide through elections who will be the leader of Afghanistan.

The UN envoy said the formation of an Islamic government in Afghanistan and opposition to Najibollah and his Watan Party have been the constant topics of talk. And now that Najibollah has left the political scene, the mojahedin should form a council and establish a government in Kabul. He said the present situation in Afghanistan is very difficult, and it is feared that serious consequences will follow if no early solution is arrived at. He said wholehearted efforts should be made for the future of Afghanistan and it should be ensured that there is no fighting for Kabul. The UN envoy said the present authorities in Kabul are ready to transfer power and want assurances for the safety of life and property and general amnesty. He said the present Kabul administration should be assured that there will be no revenge.

In reply to a question, he said UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali is expected to meet mojahedin commanders during his visit to Pakistan. He expressed the view that the presence of the UN secretary general in the region will create a conducive atmosphere for an early solution to the issue.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman briefing newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon said the prime minister is closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan. [passage omitted] He said the UN secretary general is to arrive in Islamabad tomorrow afternoon. In reply to a question, the spokesman said that at the moment there are no plans for the UN secretary general to visit Afghanistan. In reply to another question, he said the situation in Afghanistan remains by and large unchanged and there have been no reports of any major clashes.

Najibollah Asylum Request 'Not Finalized'

BK2304123992 Lahore THE NATION in English 23 Apr 92 p 3

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Lahore—Federal Defence Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said that Dr Najibollah's request for asylum was examined by the government and not finalised. It might have good or bad effects on the country to grant asylum to person who had been cause of troublesome situation, but we did not want to annoy the Mojahedin, he was answering to the questions of journalists.

Answering a question about the current situation of Afghanistan and allegations made by the Opposition that Pakistan was implementing America's instruction, he said it was the responsibility of Foreign Office and he would not say anything. Anyhow, the importance was given to the Afghan Mojahedin and the plan of UN, he stated.

Religious Affairs Minister Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi speaking to the journalists said the issue of Libya would be raised in the parliamentary meeting. He stated that superpower was making target to the Muslim countries. The checks were imposed on Pakistan while struggles were being carried on to strengthening India. He told that UN was the organisation of European countries and American in the past and now it had become organization of America.

Maulana stated that Muslims should call the meeting of ICO [Islamic Conference Oganization] and take up this problem there. Muslim countries were being made target one by one and rifts were also being made among them. There are groups emerging in the name of Tajiks and Pashruns after a jihad of 13 years he added.

Answering about the developments about the imposition of Islamic law, he told that positive steps have been taken in this matter and the amendments were being made in the Shariat Act.

Efforts To Form Afghan Council To Continue

BK2304150692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Reviewing the latest situation in Afghanistan, a Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that efforts of Pakistan to bring about consensus among the mojahedin parties would not only continue, but would be intensified so that a mojahedin council is formed at the earliest to take over power in Kabul. He said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, who returned from Austria early this morning, is closely monitoring the evolving situation in Afghanistan and is keeping in touch will all the relevant parties. He said the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, and the secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, are again going to Peshawar today to continue the efforts being undertaken by the government to bring about agreement among the Afghan mojahedin parties on the formation of the mojahedin council

In reply to a question, the spokesman said Pakistani authorities are also in constant touch with commanders inside Afghanistan, including Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar. The spokesman said that there has been some progress in the talks going on in Peshawar regarding the formation of the mojahedin council and the minister of state for foreign affairs and the secretary general hope to carry this process further during their talks in Peshawar with Afghan mojahedin leaders. He said our effort is that all Afghan mojahedin parties reach an agreement at the earliest. He said Pakistan is in touch with Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Nations, and the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] in the context of the effort to bring about an agreement among Afghan mojahedin tanzimat [organizations]. He said the ICO secretary general, Mr. Hamid al-Ghabid, has expressed his desire to pay a visit to Pakistan for furthering efforts for a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan and transfer of power to the mojahedin council. The visit is likely to take place during the next few days. He said the UN secretary general would be reaching Islamabad tomorrow.

Government 'Divided' of Afghanistan Policy

BK2304125992 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 23 Apr 92 pp I, III

[By Mariana Baabar]

[Text] Islamabad—As focus inside Afghanistan drifts from the formation of the Mojahedin Council to the fate of ex-president Najib, the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ettehad] government on Wednesday [22 April] appeared divided on its Afghan policies as the Peshawar-based Mojahedin have now been in meetings unsuccessfully for a week. One of the main tasks before Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif when he reaches home on Wednesday night would be to put his own house in order and stop the policy of doublespeak.

Contradicting the statement of Defence Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah, a spokesman for the Foreign Office when asked for comments said that as far as a safe transit for Najib was concerned, the UN had been in touch with the Government of Pakistan.

However, he added, "there has been no formal request and when we are requested formally on this issue we will offer our cooperation, in fact we would support any effort or development which helps a peaceful transfer of power. Any such view would be supported by Pakistan."

In complete contradictions the Defence Minister said in Lahore that even though the deposed Najib had sought asylum in Pakistan, the request was rejected in view of a possible backlash by the mojahedin.

The Defence Minister further added that Najib's request was examined and first it was thought that providing asylum to a man in trouble would be good. However, the idea had been dropped. Despite Foreign Office's confirmation of Pakistan's help the issue remains thoroughly confused.

According to source inside Kabul, at this stage when Najib is completely isolated even from his former minister and

generals, he insists that any flight which carries him out of Kabul should also include the Secretary-General's Special Envoy Benon Sevan. It is speculated that both would fly into Pakistan together and then take separate flights with Najib to India and Sevan back into Kabul.

Other unconfirmed reports speak of the UN secretary-general himself flying out with Najib from Pakistan.

Diplomats commenting on this situation says the priorities in this conflict are certainly getting confused. In fact, the UN has been caught napping. Its first priority should have been to have gotten Najib out of the way. They had plenty of time.

The Foreign Office spokesman on Wednesday did not at all appear optimistic about the early departure of Najib from Kabul. When asked to comment he said: "I can even confirm that even the efforts to provide a safe passage by the UN have not materialised."

PPI adds that the majority of the Afghan mojahedin parties have given names of their nominees for the proposed Mojahedin Council while the efforts are at full swing to bring all the mojahedin organisations at one platform in order to ensure peaceful and orderly transfer of power at Kabul.

This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman while briefing newsmen on the latest developments on Afghanistan.

The spokesman, however, declined to provide further information about the exact number of names given by the Afghan parties and other details on the issue. He also dispelled the impression that there is a growing impatience among some of the Afghan commanders.

Security Heightened in Case of Afghan Conflict

BK2304145392 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 23 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan authorities have geared up security to tackle any spillover in case an ethnic conflict breaks out in Afghanistan, officials said here on Wednesday.

Fears that an inter-Afghan power tussle could explode into factional violence continue to grow, with Mojahedin political leaders stuck in mutual rivalries as they negotiate to form a council for transfer of power in Kabul.

A series of talks by Mojahedin leaders in Pashawar have so far failed to produce a consensus.

Meanwhile, rival Mojahedin groups encircle Kabul, and a radical leader, Golboddin Hekmatyar, was threatening to attack the capital.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said here, "We have taken all steps to safeguard the security of our borders and our national interests".

"We are closely watching the evolving situation in Afghanistan," the spokesman said.

"If God forbid, ethnic and factional clashes break out inside Afghanistan, we can witness a serious situation here with more than three million refugees present on our soil," an official said.

Since the Afghan crisis started with the 1979 invasion by Soviet troops, which were finally pulled out in 1989, factional feuds have frequently led to incidents among Afghans living in the refugee camps in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province].

Sources in Peshawar familiar with the life in refugee camps pointed to a lurking danger of tension in the makeshift dwellings populated by people of different tribal and ethnic groups.

More than 125 camps straddle in NWFP alone, which has a refugee population of over two million. The Province of Balochistan has more than 70 camps, while Afghans also live in other parts of the country.

"We are taking no chances and have taken all measures to meet any eventuality," officials here emphasised.

Official circles regretted that the hopes raised after the UN intensified its quest for peace in Afghanistan a few months ago appeared seriously threatened by the current impasse.

"Happily, no untoward incident has taken place so far and we hope the Mojahedin will overcome their differences, enabling peace to return and for refugees to go back to their homes", a senior official observed.

In Peshawar, a spokesman of the Hezbe-e Eslami faction, Ustad Qaribur Rehman Saeed, however said he expected the refugee camps to "remain peaceful, no matter which way the situation turns in Afghanistan."

He said many refugees were leaving for Afghanistan to participate in the "struggle for the final blow to the remnants of Najibollah."

Mojahedin Chief Pledges No Obstacles to Peace

BK2304165892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Mohammad Karim Khalili, leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, has stressed the need for unity and said that all mojahedin groups and parties should be included in the interim council which will take over power from the present regime in Afghanistan. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami chief said that we are against fighting and urged that the issue be resolved through negotiations.

In reply to a question, (Khalili) said that we will put no obstacles to the solution of the Afghanistan issue for the sake of establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan even if our demands are not accepted.